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Fashions in Indian Politics

The Temple-Entry Stunt

Glimpses behind the scenes

MEN WHO HAVE MORTGAGED THIS INDIA-RUBBER CONSCIENCES

(BY MR. K. M. BALASUBRAMANIAN, B. A., B. L.)

Gandhiji is a great master of fashions; he sets the fashion in the Indian political world. There are politicians and politicians in India. Some have stiff and stern consciences trained and disciplined in their own way, impervious to the overwhelming influence of Mahatmas and Lokagurus: they come by certain opinions by a process of clear thinking and correct ratiocination and they would refuse to change them except at the pressure of equally strong proofs and reasons to the contrary. But others there are who have what are known as the "India-rubber consciences" conveniently elastic, contracting and expanding as the contingencies of life may need and in this facile exercise they do not feel the pangs of the "compunctious visitings of nature." It takes a very long time for the former kind of people to change their views in favour of the latest ones though that change might bid fair to rescue them from oblivion and shed over them a flood of burnishing lime-light. But the latter kind of politicians would fain be on the look-out for the latest type of political slogans and popular shibboleths emanating from the acknowledged factories of awe-inspiring men, and taking up that tune would march forth into the arena of politics making a bid for cheap notoriety and sensational boostings. The danger to a country lies mainly in the existence and thriving of such men of elastic conscience. The latest fashion for them has been provided by Mahatma Gandhi. The momentous fast followed by the signing of the Poona Pact, has brought to the forefront the grave issue of Untouchability and by principle and policy Gandhi has now begun to concentrate all his energy and attention to the solving of this problem of Untouchability. The national and international character that this question has assumed of late is the only reason for many of the gang of pretenders to step to the forefront and catch up the slogan of "Temple-entry for the Untouchables." So far as South India is concerned all on a sudden, on a fine morning the whole fraternity of Brahmins, than whom there was nobody more responsible for the exclusion of the Untouchables from our temples, have woke up to find themselves pro-Panchama. They have in their extra anxiety to serve the untouchables forgotten the sacred name of "Rama" and are pronouncing the hollowed nomenclature of the hitherto "unholy" tribes of panchamas. In fact they take their politics as much as their religions from Gandhiji. It must naturally strike one as an extraordinary phenomenon rather difficult of explanation that how does it come to pass that although for about three decades past, the question of untouchability has been made a live issue by all the sincerity; eloquence and sedulous preaching by personalities like Swami Vivekananda and Gopalakrishna Gokhale and parties and associations like Justice Party, Self-Respect Party, Jat Pat Totak Mandal of Punjab, etc. There has not been such a response especially from those very people who are now the most flatant and loudest in their denunciation of untouchability. But now the moment Gandhiji, who has himself been till now devoting himself to poliotics, in the year of grace 1932, begun to realise the monstrosity of the evil of untouchability and to preach and pen the dire necessity for the eradication of the same, thousands at his bidding speed and post overland and ocean, nay over hills and valleys, without rest. What is the secret of this gushing outburst of response? Is it pretended for a moment that the evil of untouchability was never before presented to the public eye in more vivid colors and clothed in more movingly descriptive words? Or was it because these C. R's and Rajans and Shashtris were not living, moving and having their beings in that very accursed Hindu society, wherein runs through the poisonous stream of inequality and injustice? Is it pretended that these hordes have gone to sleep the Rip Van Winkle's sleep all these years and now only find the evil of untouchability showing them in their face in its hideous nakedness? No. None of these reasons can explain their cruel apathy and indifference till now. The reason is simple and plain. Firstly, hitherto the expousal of the cause of untouchables spelt unpopularity, social boycott, and inconveniences of divorce nature. All this the Justicites bore patiently and heroically and what is more important have instilled confidence and courage in the heart of the Adi-Dravidas to stand erect and chest forward and look at his brethren in their face and boldly make a demand of their birthright in the political and social field. Who was it again that risked his life over the issue of this question of Temple-entry for Adi-Dravidas? Was it not a Justicite, Mr. J. N. Ramanathan of provincial fame, who, like a true hero and staunch advocate of the untouchables that he is bared his breast for the brutal blows of the massy clubs of the monstrously ignorant hirelings of the Rock Fort and Thiruvanaika Temples at Trichinopoly? Was it not he and his comrades that suffered themselves to be literally flogged and callously hurled down the story and steep steps of the dark path leading up to the temple? He and his men have literally shed their blood in the cause of the temple-entry. They have risked their very lives. Where I ask were these chronic pretenders of the Congress at Trichy? Were these "patriotic" doctors attending to their patients for no fees at all? Were they garlands on their shoulders and clapping audience in front talking about the shibboleth of "Swarajyam" for our India"? I most sincerely ask them to touch their heart and tell me if they have ever in their lives talked so much as a word in favour of temple-entry before Gandhiji commanded them to do so. The reason is obvious. Now that Gandhiji, that fashion-setter, in Indian politics has put a premium on the Pronunciation of this newly coined word of 'Harijan', these notoriety-mongers have taken to this. That the mention of the word 'Harijan' can no more throw open the gates of the Hindu Temples than the mention of the word 'Sesame' can open the gates of the Treasure house of the cave to-day, none knows more than these 'patriots,' yet they know fully well that it is a sure passport to the limelight and public gaze. So it is that they have taken to this cause.

The second reason is, there was till now no Credulous Birla to set apart an attractively huge fund with which to kill untouchability. How this fund is working as an incentive to the "energetic and sincere" work of these patriots in places like Trichinopoly is a different story. It would have been a curious experiment on human psychology to have asked these people to work for the abolition of untouchability with no funds at all. Then a breefless vakil who has been making a virtue of necessity by becoming His Majesty's guest in the name of his country at respectable intervals at Trichy would not have been, as he is to-day, subsidised with an honorarium of Rs. 100, a month. It would indeed disgust the patriotic public to know the miracles and magic that the God of Mammon plays in the augean stable of our anti-untouchables temples.

I have given above two main reasons for the sudden and universal infection of the disease among the C. R's and Rajans of South India, (That diseases, for want of a better name I would call "Lues Hari-janiana"). They are (1) the sanction of Gandhiji assures them a cheap popularity (2) the Birla fund is fascinating. That these are the only reasons for their mania for the Harijan Seva and that they have not in the least understood the true implications of the question of untouchability will be quite obvious to those who think for a moment. That these people have mortgaged their intellects and consciences to Mahatma Gandhi and they take their opinions and principles in life from him on trust will also be equally patent.

It is one of these inexplicable paradoxes of Gandhiji that untouchability must go and Varnashrama Dharma must exist. When he is confronted

(Continued on page 8)

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PROFESSOR SAINTSBURY

A LEARNED AND COMBATIVE CRITIC

Professor Saintsbury died at his home in Royal Crescent, Bath, at the age of 87. In him English literature loses a literary historian of vast reading and a stimulating commentator on books, ideas, and men. Above all he was one of those massive personalities, more common perhaps in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries than in our own day, who sum up in themselves a world of learning of enjoyment, of shrewdness, and of obstinate individuality.

George Edward Bateman Saintsbury was born at Southampton on October 23, 1845. He was sent to King's College School, then under the learned Dr. Major, among whose pupils had been Frederic Harrison, Ingram Bywater, and A. V. Dicey. Thence Saintsbury went up to Merton College, Oxford, of which, to his intense gratification, he was long afterwards elected an honorary Fellow. After leaving the University, having taken a second class in Moderations and a first in *Lit. Hum*, he served for several years as a Schoolmaster, first at Manchester Grammar School, and later at Elizabeth College Guernsey. In 1874 he was appointed headmaster of the Elgin Educational Institute, but the experiment was not a success, and in two years' time he was back in London, launching his barque upon the sea of journalism.

A Saturday Reviewer

In the course of his career he contributed to a very large number of newspapers and periodicals. He cast his net wide, and journalistic work of an honourable kind came amiss to his indefatigable industry. At the busiest period of his life he reviewed half-a-dozen new novels once a month in the *Academy*. He wrote regularly for a spirited venture, *London*, which led a precarious existence for some months in 1878, and which is inseparably associated with the names of Glasgow Brown, William Ernest Henley, and Robert Louis Stevenson. But the journal to which his energies were mainly devoted and with which he came to be peculiarly identified was the *Saturday Review*. He joined its staff under Har-wood, who had succeeded Douglas Cook, and he became assistant editor under Har-wood's successor, Walter Pollock. No review in modern times has possessed a more serviceable "general-utility" man than the *Saturday* found in Saintsbury. His contributions must have by far out-numbered those of any of his colleagues, and he was equally well qualified and prepared to put his hand to leaders, "middles," and reviews of books. The range of his reading and information was as extensive as the range of his interests, which embraced everything from casuistry to cookery.

Not the least important, moreover, of his qualifications for the post of a Saturday Reviewer was the complexion of his political sentiments. He was essentially a Church-and-King man—a true blue Tory, who was a Tory because he was first and foremost a devoted son of the Church of England. His interest in its fortunes never flagged, and one of his last interventions in public debate was a letter to *The Times* embodying the protest of an old school High Churchman and a critic of style against the Revised Prayer-book. In the *Saturday Review* he found a congenial outlet for these opinions, to which through life he clung with an admirable tenacity, and in the outspoken advocacy of which he never wavered. Probably the best summary of Saintsbury's political faith—which was emphatically based upon a thorough knowledge of modern English history—may be found in an excellent little Life of the old Earl of Derby, which he published in 1892.

His spare time he bestowed upon work less epheumeral than journalism. In addition to re-editing Sir Walter Scott's edition of Dryden, he wrote the volume upon that poet for the "English Men of Letters" series (1881), and in the early eighties he contributed to *Macmillan's Magazine* a series of articles on the early prose-writers of the nineteenth century (such as) Jeffrey, Lockhart, Wilson, Hazlitt, and Peacock, which are among the best pieces to which he ever put his name. They were subsequently collected and published under the title of "Essays in English Literature" (1890). He also prepared for the Clarendon Press, a "Short History of French Literature" (1882), which was the occasion of a violent attack, upon his methods a few years later. An article by Churton Collins in the *Quarterly Review* for October 1885, had set going a discussion on the teaching of English literature in our schools and universities. "M. Scherer was dragged in to lend weight to accusations of plagiarism brought against Saintsbury, who wisely declined to be dragged into the fray, and the storm blew over. The incriminated manual afterwards went through many editions, and was followed by a volume of illustrative selections almost equally successful. A monograph on Manchester, a history of Elizabethan literature (1887), and sundry collections of magazine articles may also be mentioned among Saintsbury's chief publications during this, the first period of his career.

In the summer of 1892 a crisis, long foreseen, arrived in the fortunes of the *Saturday Review*. The Beresford Hope family resolved to part with what had once been a highly lucrative property and Saintsbury—together, it is believed, with the whole staff—declined to serve under the purchaser. For three years he was, as the saying is, at a loose end, and his principal occupation was the providing of introductions to numerous reprints of English and foreign classics.

The Edinburgh Chair

In 1895, however, he was promoted to an employment more worthy of his learning and abilities. David Masson in that year resigned the Chair of Rhetoric and English Literature which he had for long adorned in the University of Edinburgh, and Saintsbury was appointed by the Crown to be his successor. His task was not a light one. English was apt, then at any rate, to be regarded as a "soft option" by university students, and it is not surprising that Saintsbury's ordinary class grew to enormous proportions. His honours class also became almost inconveniently crowded, and thus the demands of his office proved to be unusually exacting. He met them in full, and no one could have been more conscientious than he was, alike in preparation for the day's work and in the much more irksome task of examination. In the Senatus he was a highly valued colleague, for he was essentially a good business man and brought sound common sense to bear on all questions of academic policy. He was the first professor of his subject after the changes set on foot by the Commission of 1889 came into operation, and it was entirely due to him that the teaching of English literature in the University of Edinburgh under the new system was placed in an entirely satisfactory position.

In addition to a "Short History of English Literature" (1898) for use as a class text-book, and several volumes in "Periods of European Literature," which he edited, Saintsbury during his residence in Edinburgh produced his *magna opera*—a "History of Criticism," in three volumes (1900-1904), and a "History of English Prosody," also in three volumes (1906-1910). Both works bear unmistakable testimony to his astonishing capacity and appetite for hard work. Neither is a monument of genius; neither is exactly inspiring. But if Saintsbury's critical work was never brilliant, it was never wayward or wrong-headed. His estimate of his subject was seldom, if ever, distorted by prejudice or caprice. It cannot, it is true, be contended that his style was a model of composition. At times it was almost as bad as his handwriting—the acknowledged despair of compositors both in Edinburgh and in London. His matter, however, was always sound, his knowledge was encyclopaedic in its scope and minute in its accuracy, and his enthusiasm for good literature in any tongue was unquenchable.

He was great upon Chaucer and upon Dante. He had a remarkable appreciation of Sir Walter Scott for one who was an Englishman to the soles of his feet. He resented almost as a personal affront any disparagement of Thackeray, one of the gods of his idolatry, and, as a natural consequence, was perhaps disposed to do scant justice to Dickens. But no one was less enslaved by any particular school, no one less inclined to call anything possessed of real merit common or unclean. One among many proofs of this is the number and range of his contributions to the "Cambridge History of English Literature." For this work, between 1907 and 1927, he wrote no fewer than 21 chapters, including five on English prosody from Chaucer to the end of the seventeenth century, six on the lesser poets of various ages (some of whom can have been known to hardly any one but himself), and the chapters on Shakespeare, Milton, and Dickens.

A Vigorous Old Age

In 1915 Saintsbury retired from his Chair at Edinburgh and went to live at Bath, a congenial setting for so warm a lover of old English tradition in general and of the eighteenth century in particular. His retirement did nothing to check the steady flow of his pen. In 1916 he offered as a solace to his fellow-countrymen under the strain of the Great War a volume finely entitled "The peace of the Augustans: A Survey of Eighteenth Century Literature as a place of Rest and Refreshment," and three years later completed his "History of the French Novel to the Close of the Nineteenth Century." On the first of these works it was remarked in a leading article that appeared in our columns on the occasion of its author's completing his eightieth year that: "He has written of 'the peace of the Augustans' in prose that would make Addison writhe and Johnson rage"; and the second contained a number of vigorous misjudgments. But the savour of the veteran's personality charmed the palate of the most fastidious readers; the time had now come when Saintsbury's place in English life was so well assured that he could count on a welcome for what-ever he wrote.

This welcome did not fail when in 1920 he published "Notes on a Cellar Book," a substitute for a projected history of wine the gusto and discreet scholarship of which were appreciated by all who cared for good vintages and sound letters. Out of the same store of mellow experience Saintsbury, just before his seventy-seventh birthday, offered his wide public the advice contained in "A Letter-Book, selected with an Introduction on the History and Art of Letter-Writing," giving specimens of great or charming correspondents, mostly English, from the Paston Letters to R. L. Stevenson. The same year was chosen by many pupils and admirers for an address and presentation to a figure whose rich distinction in the realm of scholarship had long ceased to be clouded by the mist-wreaths of controversy, and the pleasantness of this tribute was in no way impaired by the dignified and cordial letter addressed to *The Times* in which Saintsbury declined any material testimonial. During his last years he issued several volumes of his "Collected Essays and Papers" and three "Scrap-Books," characteristic and delightful medleys of autobiography, opinion, and prejudice, in which the Tory politician and Churchman as well as the insatiable and combative book-taster were revealed in all their old zest and pungency.

Despite his studious habits Saintsbury was no recluse. He delighted in society, and, until his health forbade, was much given to Hospitality. He was always ready to place his library and his assistance at the service of any genuine seeker after learning, and he did many a kind action which he took care should not be disclosed to the world. There are those who owed more to his ungrudging communication of knowledge and unwearied expenditure of pains and time than they found it easy to reckon, let alone to repay. His honours were naturally academic. He was honorary LL.D. of Edinburgh and Aberdeen and D. Litt. of Oxford and Durham; and was elected president of the English Association in 1909, and Fellow of the British Academy in 1911. His only club was the Athenaeum, to which he was elected under Rule II, in 1904. Saintsbury married in 1868 Emily Fenn, daughter of Mr. H. W. King; she died in 1924, leaving one son.—(*Times*.)

A Traveller who was renowned for his tall stories, on being asked out to dinner made arrangements with his friends, who were to accompany him, that they should kick him if he began to go too far.

Quite early in the evening he started off.

"That reminds me," he said to the hostess, "of a friend of mine who had a rose garden over ten miles long, and"—he felt a kick—"and two inches wide".

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Stormy Petrel of Empire Politics

Secret of Mr. De Valera's popularity

Amazing Story of an Astonishing Career

On February 3rd, 1919, a number of Sinn Feiners—rebels against British authority in Southern Ireland—escaped from Lincoln Gaol, where they had been confined under close guard for some months.

Aided by a master-key to a side door of the prison, which had been smuggled in to the ringleader of the plot inside a cake, the prisoners slipped out unobserved, proceeded to a spot near by, where Michael Collins and another Republican were waiting with a motor-car, and disappeared as though the earth had swallowed them up, writes Mr. Macquire in "Answers."

The whole resources of Scotland Yard were concentrated on their recapture, but they were never retaken. Nor was anything definite known concerning their whereabouts until, some weeks later, these men who should have been in the cells of a British prison reappeared in Ireland.

There is a direct connection between the events of that winter morning outside Lincoln Gaol and last month's general election in the Irish Free State. For the most prominent of the prisoners who escaped by that daring coup was Eamon de Valera, then President of the Irish Republican Party, and to-day President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State.

President de Valera was born in New York on October 14th, 1882, the son of a Spanish father and an Irish mother hailing from Bruree, County Limerick. In 1884 his father died, and in the following year Mrs. de Valera sent the youthful Eamon home to Ireland to be cared for by an uncle named Patrick Coll.

In Bruree, he grew up "an Irishman of the Irish," and by 1916 he was already a leader in the Sinn Fein Movement.

On that red Easter morning in 1916, when the Irish Republic was proclaimed in Dublin by Professor MacNeill and Padriac Pearse, and the signal given for the famous Easter Week Rebellion to begin, De Valera took his place in the firing line as Commandant of the Ringsend to Mount Street area of the city.

SENTENCED TO BE SHOT

It was in that area that the fighting was fiercest, and although he had only one hundred men under his command, out of a total of 1,000 armed Republicans, De Valera was the last area commander to surrender, and he only did so upon receiving a written order from the commandant-general of the "rebels" to give up the unequal contest.

For the part which he played in the rebellion, De Valera had to stand before a British courtmartial and listen to the dread words. "The sentence of this court-martial is that you shall be shot at six a.m. to-morrow morning."

The death sentence was, however, commuted to one of imprisonment for life, perhaps on account of his American birth, and he was sent to Lewes Prison, in England.

There he might have remained for years, but on June 7th, 1917, there occurred an event which was to open the prison doors to this picturesque rebel.

"INCITEMENTS TO REBELLION"

This was the death on active service in France of Mr. William Redmond, M.P., brother of the leader of the Irish Party in the British House of Commons, which created a Parliamentary vacancy in East Clare. Mr. De Valera was selected to carry the Rupublican colours against the candidate of the Irish Nationalist Party, and was released to enable him to conduct his election campaign.

The result was a victory for De Valera, who won one of the most strenuous contests ever seen in Ireland by 2,975 votes. But he refused to take his seat in the British House of Commons, concentrating instead on Sinn Fein propaganda in Ireland. And his propaganda was of a kind that soon engaged the serious attention of the British authorities.

Speaking in the House of Commons on October 23rd, 1917, the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, declared: "I have read Mr. De Valera's speeches, and I say that they are calm, deliberate, and, I may say, cold-blooded incitements to rebellion. He delivered them not merely on one occasion, but he repeated them at meeting after meeting almost in the same studied terms, at several places, urging the people to drill, to march, to study the mechanism of rifles in order that whenever they were supplied with them, they would be able to use them efficiently."

It must be remembered that this open advocacy of rebellion was being made in a land over which the Union Jack still flew, and whose elected representatives continued to sit and vote in the British House of Commons. It was made, moreover, at a time when the British empire was fighting for its very life in the greatest war in history.

TREASON IN FACE OF ENEMY

If, as Irishmen declared, it was only right and natural that their leader should seek to embarrass the British "enemy" by every means in his power, it was also right and natural that the British, in turn, should regard the activities of Mr. De Valera as treason—and treason in the face of the enemy at a moment when Irish troops were dying beside their English and Scottish comrades in the trenches on the Western Front.

Such a challenge to British authoritiy could not be permitted to continue indefinitely. The Irish Republican leader himself forced the authorities to take action against him.

But before that action came, at a great Sinn Fein Convention held two days after the speech by Mr. Lloyd George quoted above, De Valera had been unanimously elected President of the Republican Movement—an office which in the eyes of many Irishmen, was tantamount to the Presidency of the Irish Republic they hoped to win.

In May, 1918, De Valera was again arrested, and, with a number of other Sinn Feiners, brought to England and imprisoned in Lincoln Gaol.

ESCAPE FROM LINCOLN GAOL

The War ended, and in December, 1918, came the first General Election to be held in the British Isles for seven years. In Ireland, the old Nationalist Party of Parnell and John Redmond was almost wiped out, and all the most prominent Sinn Feiners, whether in prison or outside, were elected. One and all, however, they refused to take their seats at Westminister.

Two months later came the dramatic escape from Lincoln Gaol, carried out against what seemed impossible odds, which made a greater impression upon his perfervid followers than any other event in De Valera's career. That escape, and his dramatic return to Ireland at a time when every port was watched for his coming, and every ship searched for the fugitive, made De Valera a legend in the eyes of tens of thousands of his countrymen.

Many diffierent versions of how the escape was carried out have been circulated. One relates how De Valera succeeded in securing an impression of the key to the door of the prison on candlewax. He then drew two humorous postcards, showing a drunken man trying to fit a key into a lock. On one card was written "I can't get in," and on the other "I can't get out." And on the latter card the details of the key were drawn very precisely to correspond to the wax impression.

The prison authorities saw only two humorous postcards and nothing more. But those to whom the cards were addressed realised the significance of the words and the detailed drawing of the key. A duplicate was quickly made, placed in a cake, and sent to the imprisoned leader.

TOLD IN A SONG

Meanwhile, all arrangements were made to help De Valera once he was outside the prison walls, and Michael Collins himself came over to England to take charge of operations.

That is one story. Another and more romantic tale, which I have heard at little gatherings of Republicans among the Irish hills, is that the plan of escape was communicated to Mr. De Valera by an Irish gardener employed at the prison, who sang in Gaelic under the window of his cell. For every third line in the songs he sang, there was substituted information—in Gaelic— as to the plans.

But, however the escape was planned and carried out, De Valera got clear away. The first word which reached Ireland was a brief message read out at a meeting:

"I have escaped from Lincoln to do the country's work, and I am doing it."

Shortly afterwads one of the prisoners who had escaped with De Valera appeared at a meeting at the Dublin Mansion House—the first indication that the fugitives had managed to elude the British cordon, and had reached Ireland.

THE "FORBIDDEN" VOYAGE

During the weeks which followed, Mr. De Valera gave several interviews to American and foreign Pressmen who were conducted to his hiding-place "somewhere in Ireland." These interviews took place always by night, and the journalists were conveyed to the rendezvous in cars with drawn blinds.

His next exploit was to make his famous "forbidden" visit to the United States in June, 1919. He asked for no passport from the British authorities. No one knew that he had gone, or how. Suddenly, on June 21st, 1919, he appeared in New York, and started his effort to secure recognition for the Irish Republic from the United States Government. He failed in that mission, and on Christmas Eve, 1920, he landed back in Ireland as mysteriously as he had gone.

Shortly after his return, the British Government decided to make a final effort to end the strife in Ireland. On June 22nd, 1921, Mr. Lloyd George addressed a personal letter to Mr. De Valera, inviting the Irish Republican leader to a conference with the Government and adding:

"We make this invitation with a fervent desire to end the ruinous conflict which has for centuries divided Ireland and embittered the relations of the peoples of these two islands, who ought to live in neighbourly harmony with each other, and whose co-operation would mean so much not only to the Empire, but to humanity."

END OF A CHAPTER

To this invitation Mr. De Valera replied that "the desire you express on the part of the British Government to end the centuries of conflict between the peoples of these two islands, and to establish relations of neighbourly harmony is the genuine desire of the people of Ireland."

So hostilities between the British authorities and the Sinn Feiners ended, and the negotiations which were to end in the Treaty began.

Thus ended one of the most amazing chapters in Irish history, but not, as the world has seen, the continued desire of the Republicans for what they call independence. And thus ended the career of Eamon de Valera, the soldier—to be followed by the career of Eamon de Valera, party leader and President of the Executive of the Irish Free State, in which a new chapter is now opening.

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HUSBAND'S SNORES END ROMANCE

WIFE "CRUELTY" DIVORCE SUIT

(Paris, By Mail)

Her husband's snores are cited as cruelty and claimed as grounds for divorce in a case listed for hearing in the Paris courts in the near future.

The parties in this quaint case are a Government official and his actress wife.

Through her counsel the woman alleges that in his sleep the husband snores as loudly as the bellows of the village blacksmith.

As the husband refuses either to submit to an operation to cure the habit or to permit his wife to occupy another room she pleads that his snoring constitutes cruelty.

The couple have already appeared before the judge for the attempt at reconciliation, which is an essential part of the procedure in French divorce suits, but the husband declares that he will not agree to an operation because he distrusts surgical skill.

He is equally insistent on his wife occupying the same room when at home, and, as the woman refuses to endure the discomfort of her husband's snores the suit must go on.

The husband contends that snoring is not a valid ground for divorce, and the lawyers for the actress admit this but claim that the injury caused to her health by the nightly loss of sleep through her husband's habit involves cruelty in the divorce court sense of the word.

It has already been upheld in a French divorce case that a husband's habit of going to bed with his boots on was cruelty justifying divorce. And, in another case, it was ruled that a wife's insistence on a light in the room all night was good ground for the husband's refusal to live with her.

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A Power Behind the Premiers

SIR WARREN FISHER

MAKING HISTORY ALL THE TIME

One of the greatest personalities in Europe to-day, a power behind Prime Ministers—and yet the average man would probably say "Who is he?" if you mentioned his name. He is Sir Warren Fisher, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., Permanent Secretary of the Treasury and Head of the Civil Service.

Picture a man of fifty-three, some 5 feet 10½ inches in height, with the build of an athlete and the face of an ascetic, relieved only by the friendly understanding of his smile. Quiet, but with immense force of character, a believer in sweet reason rather than brute force, you have a man who exerts, unobtrusively but effectively, more influence than any commoner in Europe, writes H. N. Bolton in "Browers."

Winnig his position in the Inland Revenue Department with its modest salary of £150 a year in open competition in 1903, immediately on leaving Oxford, this unusual Civil Servant was Deputy Chairman of his department in eleven short years, and head of it before he was forty. His rate of progress set something like a new record for the Civil Service.

He has the quickest brain of his generation, a perfectly balanced machine which weighs the pros and cons of every proposition quickly and accurately. Yet his opinion is given always with the modesty which is inherent in this strange man who prefers to remain a Civil Servant with a salary at which many a managing director would look askance—£3,500 a year—rather than become a prince of finance, an emperor of commerce, as by the stroke of the pen with which he would sign his resignation he certainly could do, with remuneration in proportion to his outstanding ability.

But the Civil Service was and is his choice. Winning his present immensely important post at the then unheard-of age of forty, Warren Fisher has used his great talents in the nation's service because he is, first and last, a lover of "this England," jealous always of her welfare, willing to make any sacrifice that England shall prosper.

On his slim shoulders there has been laid these last ten years a load ample to weigh down any man's spirit and sufficient to daunt even his steadfast courage. But he has never wavered. All the time he has steered his course according to the beliefs which are in him, having one guiding principle—the welfare of the nation.

Unswayed by popular clamour, shunning publicity as the average man shuns the plague, Warren Fisher is well content to remain unknown to the man in the street—that workaday individual whose humble interests are so close to the heart of this great Civil Servant.

I know of no man with a greater capacity for friendship. He never swerves in weal or woe. Tales might be told of his spontaneous generosity, his kindly and very practical sympathy; but the recording of these numerous acts of friendship would give him grave offence.

There is, however, another and a very different Warren Fisher. When the need arises—and his decision on this point is never taken hurriedly—Warren Fisher is adamant. His features lose their kindly lines. His face turns to granite. There is no power in the world which can persuade him to change his course of action once he has made up his mind.

Bankers and politicians, big men of business, indeed, all those who are in a position to judge his quality, regard Warren Fisher with the most wholesome respect. They appreciate his utter impartiality as much as they recognise his gifts of prescience.

He is a judge of men—not infallible but with a low percentage of mistakes. I could name a dozen men who are much in the public eye through their successful occupation of big positions, all of whom owe their selection to his recommendation. Once a man has been so selected there is one attribute which he must never lose, however difficult the task he faces.

Courage is the essential which Warren requires in every man he recommends. Given that, there is the staunchest support forthcoming, even if mistakes are made or false steps taken. But the man who wilts in the face of those difficulties which every responsible position entails loses for ever the official support of Warren Fisher, even if there remains the kindly sentiment of a strong man for a weaker.

Those who have the good fortune to work with Sir Warren acquire a personal regard for him which I have never seen equalled by the colleagues of any other man of importance. There is evident a quiet eagerness to lift some of the load off his shoulders that tells of a complete loyalty—a loyalty by his staff which is the exact reflection of Warren's own loyalty to his staff.

He is always, at work, not only during the long hours he puts in at the Treasury Chambers. At home in his quietly comfortable flat in Marylebone, he is in touch personally or by telephone with that of the moment.

His hobby is English history. One day, when he has retired, he plans to write of England's past. But there are those who hold the opinion that this man, who has done so much for England already, will continue to work unremittingly for the nation's good so long as life is in him. Thus he will always be making history and never writing it.

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BEAUTY AND TRUTH

"Two souls there are in Nature and in life—
The soul of Beauty and the soul of Truth;
Towards which we yearn and strain with restless strife,
Along paths fraught with malice or with ruth;
In the red face of ridicule and scorn,
Men sought, and still must seek these—for within
(In spite of all earth's sorrow and her sin),
The soul is to the search and manner born,
And still, in looking Beauty in the face,
With strong, prophetic joy we recognise
Something of what we may be as we trace
Our own dim reflex in her lustrous eyes;
Nor may we part such with a dull harsh rule—
Beauty is true, and Truth is beautiful!"—
John Hogben, in "Dawn to Dusk,"

"RED BIDDY'S" SECRET

MYSTERY LEADER OF GOOD DEED GANG

A BLINDFOLD INTREVIEW

London (By Mail).

"Red Biddy," A Mysterious masked woman, leader of the "Ferguson Gang," has baffled some of the keenest brains in London for weeks. But yesterday I ran her to earth writes a "People Reporter."

I spoke to her—but that was all. I was not permitted to gaze on her features.

"Red Biddy" and her "gang" are a group of philanthropists. For the past year they have been contributing towards the preservation of British beauty spots and buildings of historic interest.

"Biddy" herself, a few days ago, visited the offices of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest, of which the Duchess of Argyll is president, bringing with her a bag containing £100, all in silver.

This she deposited with the secretary, and then she departed as mysteriously as she had come.

She wore a black mask, and spoke in a deep voice that was obviously assumed to disguise her own.

"NOBODY KNOWS"

"Red Biddy's visit," an official of the National Trust, told me, "was to deposit the first instalment of an endowment for the upkeep of an 18th century mill near Guildford, Surrey.

"Nobody here knows who she is. Neither do we know the identity of any member of her 'gang.'"

Yesterday, however, a man who is in the confidence of this strange body of people who go about doing good by stealth offered to lead me to "Red Biddy's" hiding place.

"But you will have to allow yourself to be blindfolded, and you must swear that you will not divulge anything which might lead to her identification," he commanded.

So, blindfolded with a handkerchief, I was driven in a luxurious car to a mansion about half an hour's run from town.

The hall door was opened by some one who conducted us to an upstairs room.

Here I was ordered to sit, and suddenly I heard the door being opened again. A soft, musical voice spoke.

"Well, so you managed to get here all right?" it said. And in that moment I half regretted my promise!

"You mustn't take that handkerchief off!" "Red Biddy" exclaimed.

"I have given my word!" I replied. "Won't you tell me a little about yourself, and about that gift you have handed over on behalf of the 'Ferguson Gang'?"

"I shall tell you a little—but only a little, for I am sworn to secrecy," came the answer.

"The Ferguson Gang is composed of people who have at heart the best interests of our country. The 'Gang's' objects are to do whatever lies in its power to save for the nation places of historic interest that may be in danger of demolition.

"You may think that our methods are slightly theatrical—but we have a method in our madness.

"It is possible that you may hear of another gift towards the saving for Britain of one more historic landmark within the next few months.

"I should like you to say that 'Red Biddy has one little grievance against the people who have been trying to discover her identity.

"'Biddy' 'has been described as being short in stature,' Well—that hurts! You see, I am rather proud of my height.

GANG'S PLANS

Now I must be getting along. I have to look after the 'Gang's' plans for this evening. We have a meeting, at which our plans for next week are to be drawn up.

Continued on column 3.

Continued from column 4.

"Well, I must be off now. Don't please, try to pry into our secrets, will you? Good-bye!

There was a soft, swish of skirts. The door opened and closed—and "Red Biddy" was gone.

Half an hour later I was back in town and "dropped" outside the Coliseum Theatre in St. Martin's lane.

My chief memories are (a) the intriguing tones of "Red Biddy's' voice, and (b) the luxurious "atmosphere" of the room in which the interview took place.

It seemed to me just such a room as would be inhabited by people of wealth and culture.

There was a faint odour of expensive perfume.

More than that I cannot tell.

The man who drove me to "Red Biddy's" hiding place was as secretive as the head of the "Ferguson Gang" herself. He is middle-aged and portly and a member of a well-known West End Club.

"A MEAN AND MALICIOUS LIE"

Continued from page 12 col. 4)

visions for profiteering therein. The bye-laws referred to in the article were drawn up in accordance with expert advice of the Actuary and registered by the Registrar after due scrutiny. I have not drawn any honorarium or sitting fees or travelling or any other kind of allowances from the Insurance Society at any time. The Directors also do not get sitting fees or even travelling allowances for attending the meetings of the Society.

3 The Honorarium is sanctioned and paid to the Secretary from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Insurance Society, and is not drawn by him of his own accord. From the commencement of the Society upto 19th February 1933, the date of the article, the Board so sanctioned only Rs. 2,000 and not Rs. 5,000 as insinuated in the article. It is said that the Secretary went to mofussil on unknown business. It is not so. With the previous permission of the Board, the Secretary went to five different districts to organise local branches of the Society and the amount of T. A. sanctioned and paid to him during the whole period of the Society's existence upto now is Rs. 201-2-0.

4. It is said that the Co-operative Insurance Society was started two years ago and audit certificate was not issued even once. It is false. The Society was registered on the 6th January 1932, started by the Registrar on the 29th January, 1932, and commenced to do work on the 4th March, 1932. It is thus less than one year since it commenced business. The Local Government has ordered that its first audit certificate should be for the period ending 30th June 1933.

5. It is not true that a sum of Rs. 600 spent by the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union for promoting the Insurance Society was written off, as said in the article. One of the express objects of the Provincial Co-operative Union being the organisation of new types of co-operative societies, the Insurance Society asked the Provincial Co operative Union whether it would bear the sum of Rs. 600 spent in its organisation. The Provincial Co-operative Union conceded the Insurance Society's claim for about one half and asked the latter to render an account for the rest, before deciding the matter finally. It is a question of which society should bear the expenditure and how much, and not a case of writing off a loan. It is said in this connection that a different treatment was accorded to the Foot-ware Society. It is false. By the way, it is not a depressed class society. Its membership consists of many caste Hindus, and I am also one of the members thereof. A loan can be written off under the bye-laws only if it is bad and not recoverable. It will be illegal and incompetent to write off otherwise.

COMMON GOOD FUND

6. It is said that the Common Good Fund of the Provincial Co-operative Bank is my "Reservoir." It cannot possibly be true. I cannot and have not drawn a pie from it at any time, nor recommended a grant from it to any one connected with or related to me. The fund is administered by the Executive Committee and not by me. The grants from it are so far made only to public institutions and none to individuals. The references in the article to the grants objected to are also false. The Young Co-operators' League was given only Rs. 50 and not Rs. 100, for carrying on propaganda in connection with Consumers' stores among the students. No "contribution" was at all made to Sarma Brothers from the fund. Sarma Brothers, who are artists, sold three pictures to the Bank for Rs. 40. They were purchased by the Office in the usual course from general funds and are hung on the walls of the Bank along with other pictures, and the Executive Committee sanctioned the expenditure.

7. It is said that the Madras District Co-operative Central Bank was shifted from its old premises to the present premises to find cheap accommodation for the Co operative Insurance Society. It is simply false. The shifting was under contemplation for 3 or 4 months even before the Insurance Society was registered, and the resolution about the shifting of the premises was passed by the Board of Directors on the 19th January 1932, even before the Board of the Insurance Society was constituted. It was not done at my instance at all. I have unimpeachable documentary evidence to show that the shifting of the Bank was decided upon by the Board of Directors purely on business considerations.

A RIDICULOUS INVENTION

8. It is said that the subvention to the co-operative central banks was a bait thrown by me to win popularity. It is a ridiculous invention. The subvention scheme was formulated and voted for by the Board of the Provincial Bank, which consists mainly of representatives of co-operative central banks. The sum thus spent on subvention was about Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. It is not open for me to throw any money of the Bank as baits to any person or institution. The central banks cannot be tempted by baits, nor have I any ends to gain by tempting them with baits. They are highly respectable bodies which are managed by their own elected Boards and Committees. This statement of the subvention being a bait thrown by me to win popularity is a libel not only on me, but on the central banks as well.

9. It is said that the interests of the depressed classes are neglected by the co operative banks with which I am connected. The allegation is purposely made with the object of antagonising the depressed classes against me in the Madras District Co-operative Central Bank. After my connection with the District Bank, 102 loans for over Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs were sanctioned and money distributed to the city depressed class societies, an extent of accommodation which they never got, when they were financed by the Christian Central Co-operative Bank. Only four applications from depressed class societies for about Rs 3,000 in all, were not granted. Rs. 10,000 were lent to two depressed class societies for long terms to enable them to buy house sites and improve their localities. The Provincial Bank made a grant of Rs. 1,000 to the Madras District Co operative Central Bank for its administrative work mainly on the consideration that it financed the depressed class societies.

In conclusion, I desire to say that I have not sought for, or contested an election to, any of the offices in the co-operative institutions. They were in every case offered to me unanimously. That will continue to be my attitude during the rest of my services to the movement. Such influence and reputation as I have in the Co-operative Movement, is not of my seeking and your correspondent's irrelevant observations thereon are the outcome of envy and ill-will. I have placed the necessary information at your disposal to enable you and your readers to understand the unfounded and vindictive nature of the compaign against me.

THE "LAUNDRYMAN" ABROAD

As the "Laundryman" has gone on tour to collect dirty linen, the "laundry" has been closed for this week.

Ed. S. O.

ATTACK ON MR. RAMADAS PANTULU

SCHEME FOR NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION.

HOW MANOEUVRES OF MISCHIEF-MONGERS FAILED.

By "One Who Knows Better"

"The Sunday Chronicle", in its issue of the 19th February, 1933, concluded the article containing an attack on Mr. Ramadas Pantulu with a reference to contemplated motions of no-confidence against him at the General Body Meeting of the Madras District Co-operative Central Bank. The sting was in the tail and it be presumed that the article itself was part of the scheme to engineer the no-confidence motion. This assumption was amply justified by the fact that the copies of the issue of the 26th February 1933 of the "Sunday Chronicle", containing a fresh mass of attack on Mr. Ramadas Pantulu were freely distributed by a representative of the paper at the meeting of the General Body of the Dt. Co-operative Central Bank at the Pachaiyappa's College Hall on Sunday the 26th February 1933, where the no confidence motion was coming up for discussion. So, the general impression created at the meeting was that the writer in the "Sunday Chronicle" was strongly interested in promoting the no confidence motion. Mr. Ramdas Pantulu was accused, in the article published in the issue of the 25th February, of having taken steps to get his friends and supporters to attend the meeting and vote for him. Assuming it is a fact, is there anything wrong in it? Is he to allow his adversaries to attack him at the meeting and pass no-confidence motions without taking measures to defend himself? Does the writer in the "Sunday Chronicle" mean to say that the promoters of the no-confidence motion did not canvass support for the motion? If he does so, no one would believe him. All this shows how the writer in the Sunday Chronicle has cast to the winds all considerations of fairness in his anxiety to somehow injure the reputation of Mr. Ramadas. The writer in the "Sunday Chronicle" persists in saying that half of the premises occupied by the Dt. Bank was let to the Insurance Society for less than half the rent. The partitions put up at appreciable cost when the Bank was shifted into the building securely separate the portion occupied by it from that intended to be sublet, and the partitions are there in fact and will not lie even if a newspaper correspondent does. Numerous constituents of the two institutions who have been going to the building will testify to the true facts. I shall not therefore say anything more, but shall quote the relevent resolutions of the Board of Directors of the Madras Dt. Co-operative Central Bank with names of Directors who have signed them, besides Mr. Ramadas Pantulu. They will speak for themselves.

The following resolutions were passed at the meeting of the Board of Directors in connection with the no confidence motion:—

"1. Read resolutions and questions given notice of by the members to be placed before the General Body Meeting. The Board is of opinion that the several statements made are incorrect and that the responsibility for the actions complained of rests entirely with the Board and that the President had only carried out the instructions of the Board."

* * * *

"That the Board also places in record that the President, Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu, always commanded the confidence of the Board and reiterates its full confidence in him.

* * * *

2. "The Board unanimously resolves to place on record the following facts in regard thereto :—

(*a*) The question of the shifting of the Bank from the old premises to a more suitable one was under consideration for three or four months before it was actually shifted. The Secretary had been representing to the Board that the old premises was inconvenient and that the shifting of the Bank to a more prominent place will improve its business with the general public. The Board at its meeting held on 19-1-1932 unanimously resolved that the President and the Vice-President do inspect the Building and settle the rent. Some of the other Directors also visited the present premises on the evening of the meeting along with the President and the Vice-President.

(*b*) It is not true that the shifting of the Bank had anything to do with leasing a portion of it to the Insurance Society. The Board in fact considered the question of sub-letting it to lawyers and others, but ultimately preferred a co-operative institution as a single sub-tenant. The portion leased out to the Insurance Society was rented at Rs. 50 till 30-6-32 and Rs. 75 from 1st July, 1932. The portion let to the Insurance Society is about 2/5 and that of the Bank is about 3/5. That the shifting of the Bank's premises was purely from a business point of view and is amply borne out by the fact that the individual current accounts rose from No. 147 to No. 295 and the fixed deposits of individuals have also increased from Rs. 32,000 to Rs. 1,17,322."

(*c*) The statement that the depressed class societies were not cared for or accommodated properly is entirely baseless. Of the 107 loan applications from the starting of the Bank, 102 loans for Rs. 1,50,759 were granted, only 4 were refused and one is pending, as under :—

	Year	*Amount* Rs.	*No. of loans.*
Loans.	1930-31	...20,280	... 19
	1931-32	...64,995	... 41
From	30-6-32 to 31-1-33	...65,484	... 42
	Rs.	1,50,759	... 102

In three of the four cases refused, it was due to difficulties arising under the bye-laws of the societies concerned.

INITIALLED BY :—

Messrs. B. Satyanarayana, B. A., B. L.
S. S. Sankara Mudaliar, B. A., B. L.
K. Parameswara Iyer.
Prof. M. S. Sabhesa Iyer, M. A., L. T.
Sreemathi K. Alamelumangaithayaramma, M.L.C.
Rao Sahib V. S. Dharmalingam Pillai.

The allegation of the "Sunday Chronicle's" correspondent in the issue of the 26th February 1933, that these resolutions were managed to get passed by Mr. Ramadas Pantulu, is in the face of it ridiculous. The signatories to these resolutions are all persons of position and standing in public life and are under no obligation to Mr. Ramadas to record facts which are not true.

The facts stated above speak for themselves and comment is unnecessary.

BADMINTON AT EGMORE

Madras, March 5.

A friendly Badminton match was played this morning in the Corporation play ground, Egmore. P. W. D. Recreation won the first two games giving 13 and 18 points to the Egmore Badminton Club. Mr. Kannan Kutti played a decent game for the E. B. C.

Thrifty

A SCOT appeared in an English police-court, his head swathed in bandages. An Irishman, charged with assaulting him with a kettle, pointed to the injured party and said, scornfully :—

"Those bandages are all show. He was walking about without them yesterday."

"Is that true?" asked the magistrate.

"Yes," replied the Scot. "I wanted to keep them clean for to-day."

NOTICE

All contributions and articles should be addressed to the Editor, the "Sunday Observer."

Contributions should be written only on one side of the paper. Those who desire the return of their articles in case of non-publication should send a stamped and addressed envelope.

All communications addressed to the Editor should bear the name and address of the writer for authentication.

Contributors are requested to be brief and to the point, owing to the limitation of space.

EDITOR.

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THE SUNDAY OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1933.

THE INDIA BUDGET

Opinion in India on the Budget presented by Sir George Schuster in the Assembly the other day is one of disappointment. The public expected that there would be some relief from taxation, but the elaborate speech of the Finance Member contains nothing to satisfy their expectations. It was felt that, as the Services have come in for favourable treatment when comparatively better times have dawned, the country as a whole may be benefitted by the surplus in the Exchequer. But, the Government have patted the Services on the back and knocked the public on the head by their step-motherly policy. There has been a good deal of controversy over the wisdom or otherwise of the restoration of the salary cut, and public feeling has generally veered round to the view that, however justifiable the fulfilment of a pledge may be from the Government point of view, the following it up by a policy of tax-relief would have had a better reception in the country. Referring to the pledge, "The Times of India" of Bombay says, "Nobody can have wished or expected that he would try to escape from the pledge to the Services given in the emergency budget of September, 1931. The pledge, mistaken as it may have been, has to stand. In the face of it a relief of taxation prior to the restoration of the cut could not be justified, but as we have all along contended, relief contemporaneous with the restoration certainly can be. Once the entanglements of the pledge are out of the way the issue of the present high level of official salaries can be openly faced. The Finance Member's claim that Government is not really meeting its full obligations so long as it is not paying the fixed rates of pay to its officials is certainly not one of universal validity. Other Governments have of necessity reduced their establishment bills and are not giving the slightest indication of restoring them to the old levels." This is only one of the many criticisms that have been levelled against Sir George Schuster's budget. Another palpable case of injustice is that those provinces which have deficits will be given special grants from the Central Government. In other words, the provinces which have succeeded in balancing their budgets are to be punished, while those which have been unable to do so are to be rewarded by the Central Government. Thus sufficient encouragement is given to some provinces not to do their best to balance their budgets. A premium is therefore put on deficit budgets. It is not our purpose here to examine minutely the numerous criticisms advanced against the Indian Budget. Suffice it to say that there is not much to be satisfied in it, while there is a good deal for disappointment in some of its important features.

The "Federated India," a weekly newspaper of Madras, complains that the amenities of controversy have not been kept up between ourselves and "The Sunday Chronicle" and it goes on to unearth a parallel in the controversy between the "Eatanswill Gazette" and the "Eatanswill Independent" described in the "Pickwick Papers." It has warned us that amenities of controversy cannot be disregarded lightly. We do not know what condign punishment is in store for us at the hands of the Sir Wise Oracle, but we may be permitted to state that the object of this paper is to cleanse public life in this province of undesirables. It has to do this, not with a velvet duster, but with a broom. It has to call a spade a spade, and not an agricultural instrument used for throwing away sand or mud; it has to call a lie a lie, and not a terminological inexactitude. It hates hypocrisy and insincerity, the glossing of words, the polishing of phrases, and the hiding of truth. The "Observer" will never mince words nor hesitate to expose men who stand in the way of public good and who actively work against public welfare. If the "Federated India" fears that it will some day come under this category, then it has just cause not to relish our openness and straightforwardness. There is one mischievous and malicious allegation that the paper has made with reference to the "Observer", namely, that this is a Ministerial organ. We authoritatively contradict this allegation as a deliberate falsehood. The "Observer" is not attached to any party or group, and it is a calculated misrepresentation to say that it is a Ministerial organ. We want to warn the "Federated India" and others that they cannot make such allegations in a lighthearted manner, and deceive the public as to the real objects of this journal.

SIR A. P. PATRO

Vizagaptam, March 4

Sir A. P. Patro, *en route* to Madras and Sir C. V. Raman to attend the Andhra University Senate meeting this evening, arrived at Waltair by mail today.—A.P.

NO RELIEF TO TAX-PAYERS

BUDGET CRITICS IN COUNCIL OF STATE

RE-IMPOSITION OF DUTY ON CHEQUES CONDEMNED

PLEA FOR REDUCTION OF POSTAL RATES

(ASSOCIATED PRESS)

New Delhi, March 4.

Before the Central Budget was taken up for discussion the President Sir Maneckjee Dadabhoy informed the House that a communication had been received from Sir George Schuster, Finance Member, regretting, owing to the more urgent work elsewhere, his inability to be present and follow the debate, but that he would endeavour his best to attend the Council about 1 P. M. and that this did not mean any discourtesy to the Council of State.

The President fixed no time-limit on the speeches and left it to the good sense of the members.

DUTY ON ARTIFICIAL SILK

Lala Ramsarandas, Leader of the Progressive Party, speaking first, regretted that he could not congratulate the Finance Member or the Secretary on producing what was said to be a balanced budget. The budget was balanced by linking the rupee to the sterling and by the enormous export of gold. There was no justification to increase the import duty on artificial silk goods. Was this extra duty going to help local industry? He doubted this. The real reason for the Japanese dumping into India was that yen had gone down.

Proceeding, Lala Ramsarandas held that there was no justification for the pre-war level of army expenditure and wanted the Government to announce a policy of granting protection to industries in general. He also urged for a five-year plan for India on an all-India basis.

Rao Bahadur G. A. Natesam held that there was, on the one side, a high colour picture of India's high credit and sound finances. On the other, there was the spectacle of low exports, high level of taxation and high gold exports. From his knowledge of economic conditions in the country, he could say that business houses and ryots were suffering from trade slump and high taxation and things were not as happy as others made them believe.

He reminded the House that Indian and European business houses had to make large reductions in their staff to meet the situation, and business conditions had not materially improved during the last 18 months, and yet the Government had chosen not to give relief to the general tax-payer, but had restored the five per cent. cut which would cost them over one crore of rupees.

ARMY POLICY.

He then criticised the army policy of the Government of India, and asked whether there was any chance of reduction in capitation charges and urged for army purchases through the Indian Stores Department.

Dr. Suharwardy asserted that the surplus budget was due to some windfalls which were not likely to be repeated during the current year, and unless a miracle happened, there was no hope of improvement. The speaker criticised free exports of gold, and urged the adoption of a policy to stimulate the purchasing power of the masses.

RESTORATION OF CUT.

Mr. Miller held it reassuring that the Government could show a vast improvement in credit and reduction in floating debt with the strengthening of the Reserves and favourable balance of trade. This, however, had been achieved at great personal sacrifice to businessman. The speaker could not agree with the Finance Member that Government officials were still subjected to very special burden, for he was sure that the minimum sacrifice that these outside Government services have to bear was considerably more than five per cent. and most of this class had no pension on which to rely on retirement.

INCOME-TAX

Mr. Bijayakumar Basu deplored that the lowering of the income-tax level to Rs. 1,000 was playing havoc in millions of homes. The Government ought to have taken consideration of this factor before they restored the partial cut in pay. He was not satisfied at the mere extension of anti-dumping duty, and hoped that stronger measures would be adopted in order to protect the principal industry of the country, namely, cotton textile industry. The military expenditure could still be considerably reduced without loss of efficiency, and, in his opinion, expenditure should not exceed 40 crores. He protested against the revival of stamp duty on cheques.

Mr. Jagadish Prasad, criticising the restoration of the cuts in pay, said that it looked as if the puplic was for the Services and not the Services for the puplic. He strongly pleaded for the reduction of postal rates to the original level and the restoration of cuts in University grants. He regretted that the costly Lee Concessions were not withdrawn, despite the continuance of financial stringency.

Mr. Jagadish Prasad, proceeding, complained against the treatment meted out to the members of the Council of State. Hardly any member of the Council had been put on the Select Committee of any Bill. Considering the composition of the Assembly, it was not to be surprised at that the Government was always anxious to placate the Assembly.

AN UGLY FEATURE.

Mr J. C. Banarjee, while complimenting the Finance Member for his splendid performance in showing a surplus of 42 lakhs, asserted that the imposition of additional taxes in the shape of further duties on imported boots and shoes and artificial silk for protective purposes and also the revival of stamp duty on cheques did not redound to his credit in husbanding the resources for purposes of incurring public expenditure. He maintained that the continuance of the 18*d.* ratio even when the rupee was linked to the sterling, was an ugly feature of England's work in India which was deterimental to India's economic resources. The man in the street did not understand the intricacies of budget, nor did he care to know all of them. What he really wanted was lightening the burdens of taxation and whether public expenditure was in keeping with the taxable capacity of the people.

Mr. H. M. Mehta was gratified at the Finance Member's wonderful budget, and paid tributes to Sir George Schuster for his great ability in balancing the budget, while most of the wealthy countries were still in a financial morass. He also thanked the people for their staying power and help they afforded at the crisis which made the task of the Finance Member easier.

Speaking on gold, he pointed out that gold which left the country so far was only excess gold which was not wanted. Only rich Rajas, Zemindars and those who hoarded it for love of gold had parted with their hoardings when the price had gone up. The recent gold export brought to India nearly 56 crores of ruppees profit which was a great boon to the country.

Speaking, on the cotton textile industry, Mr. Mehta pointed out how the Japanese competition throttled the Bombay mill industry and this menace was rapidly spreading to other parts of the country. He hoped that a proper remedy would be devised by the Government as early as possible.

Dewan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami Chetty held that there was a feeling in the country that the Finance Member did not hold out any hope for the future, much less gave any actual relief to the taxpayer. Eighteen months ago when the Government enhanced taxation, they did so on the pleas of national emergency. To day though the emergency continued, they had partially restored the salary cut without giving relief to the taxpayer. He

(Continued on page 7)

NO RELIEF TO TAX-PAYERS

(Continued from page 6)

urged a change of policy in keeping with high taxation to meet top heavy expenditure, and urged the trial of a conversion scheme for sterling securities and protested against the reimposition of duty on cheques.

Sir Akbar Khan asserted that the country's industries were not flourishing, in spite of protection. He did not see any arguments in the demand that the Government servants should suffer, because those outside the Government were suffering. He expressed gratification for the surplus budget.

Sir Akbar Khan, proceeding, asked whether it was fair on the part of the authorities to reduce the cut in pay without any attempt to reduce the incometax or do anything for the betterment of the general taxpayer.

PLIGHT OF MASSES

Mr. P. C. Dutt called upon Sir George Schuster to vist a few typical villages and find out for himself the plight of the masses. He complained that Assam was the only province in India without a University or a High Court.

Referring to the appropriation by the Centre of the vital portions of provincial incomes, Mr. Dutt stated: "You fleece Assam to the skin to feed the centre," and warned that no financial arrangements would be considered satisfactory for Assam, if it did not take into account Assam's special circumstances and special needs.

Mr. Chaudhry Mohamed Madin, speaking for the agriculturists, asked the Government to try to increase the price level of India's raw products in international Markets, and thus improve the purchasing power of the people. If the Government did not actively move in this direction quickly even those who now stood with the Government would militate against the Reforms. He hoped that adequate provisions would be made for a prominent place for cultivators in the new constitution.

HEAVY TAXATION

Sir Edward Benthall regarded the Budget as most unsatisfactory from the point of view of the taxpayer and business. According to the Finance Member there were 150 crores worth of imports last year, of which 110 crores were paid by exports and 40 crores by sale of gold. In these imports the taxpayer paid no less than 42 crores by way of customs and ten crores by way of export duties and excise. Such heavy taxation was unendurable for long.

In regard to income-tax, Sir Edward Benthall said that the Finance Member was anticipating Rs. 50 lakhs more in the next year. But coming from Bengal where jute, tea and coal industries were in the depths of depression with little sign of relief, it was difficult to see where the income was coming from. The speaker asserted that, although the trade of India had halved, the total of taxes had been increased by 15 per cent. The incidence of taxation in 1922 was ten per cent, now it was 30 per cent. The action of the Government, like putting surcharge on coal freights, was driving the industries of the country to destruction and it was merely a question of time if this sort of thing continued before the sources of taxation would dry up. Sir Edward Benthall regretted that on one side the Government had refused to lighten the burden of taxation, and, on the other, refused to embark on any capital expenditure which might be calculated to improve the situation. At the same time, the Finance Member during his speech hoped that the low rates of interest will provide the revival of capital expenditure, adding that that was the only sound way by which an exit could be found from the present depression, and that the industrial revival will soon make it possible to reduce taxation. The speaker regretted that the Finance Member had not practised what he preached. When money rates were high and prices were dear, the Government were quick to embark on costly schemes which, in times of low prices, were apt to become a burden to them. He urged a revision of policy and embarking on a bold programme of far sighted capital development. This was the only course to put money into circulation.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE

Concluding, Sir. Edward Benthall referred to Rao Bahadur G. A. Natesan's remarks on the Army budget, and said that, in comparing the figures with other countries, they should take into consideration not only the Central Government budget, but also the provincial budgets. Then it would be found that the figure for military expenditure was a great deal lower.

Again, in comparing the present Army budget with the pre-war figures, they must take into consideration the number of additional items of expenditure like war pensions, war debts, air force mechanisation proposals. It was something that a reduction of 20 lakhs had been made this year. As for further economics, he was prepared to leave them to the Army itself.

After the speeches of some more members, Sir George Schuster replied to the debate and said that he felt satisfied that, despite criticism over details, there was general acceptance of the basis of the proposals. The country had played up in a remarkable way and the legislature had supported the Government in weathering the storm. They had at least restored the financial equilibrium in the face of the crisis, and while he fully recognised that, in relation to economic level, the burden of taxation was terribly heavy, he hoped that they had turned the corner.

Regarding the Army expenditure, it was impossible to go back to the prewar level with all their unavoidable commitments rendered necessary after the war.

Alluding to Sir Edward Benthal's suggestion for a bold programme to capital expenditure, Sir George Schuster explained practical difficulties, and said there were no cut and dry schemes which would prove to be remunerative in the long run. Perhaps, a scheme of further electrification of railways in Bombay for which traffic survey was being carried out offered the only one suitable at the moment.

As for development of roads a conference was being arranged in the early summer in Simla.

Concluding, he thanked both the Houses of Legislature for being with the Government in determination to pursue a policy of sound finance.

ANDHRA UNIVERSITY

MR. C D S. CHETTY RE. ELECTED REGISTRAR

(Associated Press)

Waltair March, 4

Mr. C. D. S. Chetty was re-elected as Registrar of the Andhra University by the Senate this evening by a majority of 28 votes. Mr. Chetty secured 49 votes as against 21 secured by Mr. C. S. Krishna.

BETTING ON HORSES

AN ARREST AT WALL-TAX ROAD

Madras, March 5.

Sub-Inspector Sadasivam of Elephant Gate Police arrested yesterday one Solai Nadan in Wall-tax Road, Park Townt for receiving betting on horse races. The police have recovered from the arrested person cash to the extent of Rs. 15 and betting slips etc. The arrested man will be charged before a Magistrate shortly.

RACE FOR ARMAMENTS

HITCH AT CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

FEAR OF A POSSIBLE BREAK-DOWN

PREMIER AND SIR J. SIMON HURRY TO THE RESCUE

(British Official Wireless)

London, March, 4

The British Government's decision that the Prime Minister and Sir John Simon, the Foreign Secretary, should go to the Disarmament Conference as soon as it could conveniently be arranged was taken after a report had been received of the proceedings of the Conference from the Foreign Under-Secretary who returned from Geneva specially to give the Government a full account of the proceedings there.

Captain Eden is returning to Geneva this week end and will continue to lead the British delegation until the arrival of senior Ministers. His valuable services during the last few weeks were the subject of much commendation from the Ministerial colleagues and the press. There is a strong impression in responsible London quarters that if the failure of the Disarmament Conference is to be avoided, a definite success should be achieved in the near future, and that for this purpose fresh and determined initiative is essential.

The far-reaching consequences of the failure are fully realised in London, and it is earnestly desired that other Governments would co-operate in avoiding such a disaster, and in giving a fresh impetus to the vital cause of Disarmament.

The date of departure of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary to Geneva is yet unknown, but it is hoped that leading representatives of other Governments would be able to take decisions and attend Geneva at the same time, so that no delay need be incurred in achieving results which are held to be so essential.

BRITISH PRESS COMMENTS

The Government's announcement is generally welcomed by the press.

The "Times" considers that it would be disastrous if no form, on agreed limitation, were reached and individual states reverted to the tragic rivalry in competitive armaments. Yet there is a definite danger of the failure of the Disarmament Conference, unless most responsible Ministers of the principal countries — not merely the Great Powers—can insist upon a consolidation of every possible point of agreement which appears to be attained or attainable after 13 months' discussion.

The "Manchester Guardian" declares that the failure of the Disarmament Conference would hopelessly prejudice the world economic conference. It says that Europe is politically unstable and fearful which the failure at Geneva would create and would be driven back on a still more intense nationalism than would make international action in economic sphere almost impossible.

The "Morning Post" says: "No secret is made in well-informed quarters in London of the apprehension with which Government view the consequences of a possible break down. The chief among these is the dangerous and unregulated race in armaments which must ensue unless an agreement is reached at the Conference.

The "Daily Herald" says: "Feeling in Geneva is that the Franco-German deadlock might be resolved given only a reasonable amount of good will.

The "Times" Geneva correspondent says that it is confidently expected that the arrival of Mr. Macdonald and Sir John Simon, especially if their example is followed by others, as there is reason to hope they will, will pave the way at length for clear-cut decisions.

A CHUNAMPET COMEDY

A DRAMA IN ONE SCENE

Time: Last Monday morning at about 10 a. m.

Place: "Sunday Chronicle" Office, 17, Mount Road.

Actors, Chunampet, M. K. R. and J. S. K.

Chunampet rushing in in a ferociously angry mood): I am having too much of this. I am not going to tolerate this any longer. No, not at all.

J. S. K.: What is the matter, Mr. Mudaliar? Anything wrong anywhere?

Chunam: Anything wrong? And you ask it? You are at the bottom of this whole mischief.

J. S. K.: What mischief?

Chunam: Why! the "Sunday Observer" is abusing me downright. They say I am the biggest fool in Madras. I am called the Chunampet crack. They say I have no brains, that I am an idiot, an ass, the Vice-President of the Crack Committee. I can't tolerate this kind of thing any longer.

J. S. K: That is alright, but how am I responsible for the "Observer" attack?

Chunampet: Well, you are the printer and publisher of that "Chronicle." Therefore, they think that I am also in it. Because the "Chronicle" fellows attack them, they are attacking me, thinking that I am financing the paper.

J. S. K: Yes, but how am I at the bottom of the mischief?

Chunam: Your name is at the bottom of the paper. From to-day onwards, I do not want you to be the printer or publisher of that paper or any damn thing.

J. S. K: Alright sir, whatever you say I obey.

Chunam: What Mr. Reddiar, you are at the top of the mischief. What do you think about this?

M. K. R: Why should you grow so excited? It is all in the game of politics.

Chunam: What do you care? What they have said about you are all quite true. Therefore, you can't give any reply. But why should I give the impression that I am financing it? And become a victim to all their attacks!

M. K. R.: I am sorry to say that you are unnecessarily worrying yourself too much.

Chunam: No, no. I want to see the end of this sort of thing. You are all making me a scapegoat. In fact, you think in your heart of hearts that I am a fool, an idiot, a crack.

M. K. R.: You are imagining all sorts of things.

Chunam: I am not imagining anything at all. You are all imagining that I am a great fool, which I am not. And I am going to prove it to-day.

M. K. R.: Please don't do anything rash.

Chunam: (in a very excited mood): I am not rash. But I want this to be clearly understood. I don't want the "Chronicle" office any longer in my "India" office. You must all clear out immediately.

M. K. R.: How is it possible to remove the office at such short notice?

J. S. K.: Yes, Mr. Mudaliar, give them sometime.

Chunam: You shut up. I know what I should do. I don't want your suggestion. Next week the "Chronicle" office should not be here. Let this be clearly understood. Otherwise, I will close down the "India" office itself.

J. S. K.: (aside to Mr. M. K. R.): He is really a crack.

Chunam: Next week the "Chronicle" must be out of this office bag and baggage.

M. K. R.: (in a petulant mood): Alright, I will remove the office.

Chunam: Henceforward, I think I wont have any attacks on me. (The Crack goes out.)

CURTAIN FALLS

N. B.—The "Sunday Chronicle" office has now been shifted to 40, General Patters Road, Madras.

PASSING SHOW

By "Jai Bharath"

The annual farce of the Budget in the Legislatures in now on. The actors in this piece of drama are either its moderate supporters or its immoderate opponents. But the most farcical character in the local council at the present moment is that irrepressible nominated member Mr. V. T. Arasu. He is certainly not of the type of Shafttab Ahmed Khan of the Assembly. He poses to be of a higher of order. He is the Sir Oracle of the local council, which is equivalent to the Tamil saying "யாருமில்லா ஊரில் அசுவமேத யாகம்". He is a creature of the presiding deity of our local Anglo - Indian contemporary. In saying that, I believe, I am not disclosing any secret, for it is known to everybody now, how he got himself nominated to the council. Without any pretension to any kind of political training prior to his nomination, except the fact that he unsuccessfully contested a municipal seat, without any pretension to represent any special constituency and without claiming to belong to any backward community, he has secured a nomination to the council. His hefty flights into nationalism are airy nothing. He has no constituency to serve except the Anglo-Indian contemporary; no master to whom he is responsible except its great editor. He appears in a new role viz. as a finance critic in his speech in the council last week. He is neither a master of scholarly irony nor the proud possessor of a charming literary style and therefore his ideas fell flat on his hearers. I wonder whether he knows anything about a balanced budget, but I am sure he is an adept at telling correctly the horse that will win at the cup race in Guindy next week. He is a personification of what Bentham pointed out long-ago, that the motive spring of every human endeavour is "self-interest". He sings of fortune as Dryden sang of old

> "I can enjoy her while she's kind
> But when she dances in the wind
> And shakes her wing, and will not stay
> I puff the prostitute away."

* * * *

LA LIBERTE.

It is no doubt too late in the day to try to dispute the equality of rights of women. The thin end of the wedge had been introduced, and women all over the world have established their right to equality in all spheres of life. But it remains to be seen in the light of facts revealed from time to time, how far the results justify the choice. Let us take the case of higher education of women in Hindu Society. With the suicide of Miss V. Seethammal, a student in the Queen Mary's College, matters are brought to a head like the Hara Kari of Japan. I don't know under what circumstances the lady committed suicide—it is a secret which will remain sealed with the departed soul and a few of her intimate friends. But whatever that may be, the fact remains that a young girl living alone in a city, hundreds of miles away from her parents and not in any pecuniary need, was not able to control her will-power to resist the temptation of taking away her life. The Hindu family is so peculiarly placed that the slightest attempt at disruption brings disaster to its members. Our women have not been accumstomed as in the West to a College life. Miss India has not yet learned to travel like Miss America from one end of the continent to the other, with lip stick and contraceptive appliances in her bag. I hope it will never come to such a pass in India. There are, however, phases in the present day college life for reformers to discern and exploit for the future generation. One such is the inter-caste and inter-communal marriages that are made in the college itsself or during post graduate course. The first of such marriages which created a great sensation was about 20 years ago between a Mangalore Brahmin lady and a non-brahmim aristocrat. Then followed two Velama lady students, daughters of a high Government official, marrying a Muslim and a Malayalee. Later still a Naidu lady student selected a Vaishnavite Brahmin bridegroom during her college course. All of them, I believe, are worthy alumni of Queen Mary's College. And last but not the least and indeed a step higher from the pupil to the teacher the Nallamuthu—Sastri alliance. When I mentioned so many instances from one college I don't mean anything disparagingly about it. It is a principle accepted in nature that one class or kind looks upon another of a different class as being superior and *ipso facto* young and immature girls look upon young men of other communities as better than those of their community. I hope the ever vigilant Women's Indian Association containing stalwarts of their sex who fight for every cause of theirs, will bestow some thought on this aspect of the matter.

FASHIONS IN INDIAN POLITICS

Continued from page 1

with inconvenient questions regarding the absurdity of this position he adroitly takes shelter by saying that his conception of Varnashrama Dharma differs from the ordinary conception. Hence he says that he does not approve of intercaste dinners and marriages. Yet he maintains that his Varnashrama does not exist in India to-day. So far so good. We are not at present concerned with his Varnashrama which is not in existence. When it shall ever come we shall deal with it. But if the present Varnashrama, different from his, is sought to be destroyed, why should Gandhiji raise the white of his eyes and curse us? As it is to-day, the present day Varnashrama dharma is the poisonous tree having as its roots the evil of untouchability. Every casteman is an untouchable unto his 'superior' casteman, though not literally, at least in a qualified sense. It is therefore not an absolute form. Untouchability is only a comparative form. Therefore if one were to attempt to do justice to 7 crores of absolute untouchables by abolishing it, one is open to the charge of partiality. He must recognise that there are 200 millions more of 'qualified' untouchables. To ignore them and their trouble is to be 'anti-national.' Therefore if consistency is praised in any quarter in our Country I think even a Gandhiji must be compelled to mete out justice not only to the 'absolute' untouchables who numbers only 70 millions but also to the qualified untouchables who member 200 millions. This can be done only by abolishing the whole edifice of caste system ephumistically known as 'Varnashrama Dharma."

Otherwise it would be a ridiculouspiece of logic to maintain, as Gandhi does, that we can destroy the foundation of untouchability without imparing or injuring the edifice of caste system.

This simple truth Gandhiji does not want to admit. Therefore the 'patriots' also do not want to admit. In all their public speeches they never decry caste. In fact, far from doing so, the head of the educational institution in the South who also takes a pleasure in presiding over all anti-untouchability meetings with an air of condescension and patronage, connives at the strict adherence to the observance of caste distinctions in the hostel attached to his institution. This drama of Dr. Jeykyll and Mr. Hyde is being daily played by the india-rubber consciences of the South to the great edification of themselves and the utter merriment of the public. The adopter of the latest fashion in politics is no less admired and applauded than he who appears in the latest parisian dress of fashion. The thick skin seems to be too opaque a veil to conceal the conscience inside. Really all the "world is a stage" and all these men are merely players! And of all plays the drama of Harijan is the most amusing if also heart-rending. Oh, for a screen to drop suddenly and close it quickly.

SALEM DISTRICT BOARD PRESIDENTSHIP

MRS. SUBBAROYAN'S REPLY TO "SEARCHLIGHT"

"DID NOT STAND AS A PARTY CANDIDATE"

Mrs. Radhabai Subbaroyan, Zamindarini of Kumaramangalam, sends us the following letter for publication under date Tiruchengode, Salem District, March 2, 1933:—

My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in the 'Sunday Observer" of 26th February by a correspondent under the pseudonym of "Searchlight," in which, he makes certain unfair allegations against me with reference to the election of the President of the Salem District Board last December. As I wish to correct the misrepresentation made by your correspondent, I am obliged to request you to publish in your columns my reply to his remarks.

I would first point out that I stood for election in my own individual capacity, and not as the candidate of any particular group or party, and certainly not in virtue of my status as a married woman. I belong to no political or communal organisation, and my sole object in seeking election first to the District Board, and then as its President, was to serve the public of my District, and not for the advancement of the interests of any individuals or party. I made these points quite clear to my voters by personal talks and by manifestos, and also to the acknowledged leader of the Justice Party in Salem who was advocating the candidature of my opponent. I personally conducted my electioneering work, but, as it was impossible to work single-handed in a vast District like Salem, I welcomed the co-operation of friends, some of whom happened to be my relations, or members of political parties with which I was entirely unconnected. I made no attempt, either to take advantage or to make a secret, of my relationship or friendship with leaders of any political party nor of the fact that my opponent had been officially adopted as their candidate by the Justice Party. These details were of no importance to me, as I never, for a moment, intended to contest the election on political or communal lines. It is my firm conviction that neither party politics nor communalism should be introduced in Local Bodies, and, in my efforts to serve them, I shall endeavour to the best of my ability to prevent their entry into local affairs.

NO "COMMUNAL RALLY"

I have no feeling of caste or community, and I do not consider myself a member of any particular community, except that of the wide one of the Indian Nation. I emphatically repudiate the charge that a "communal rally was made" by me or my supporters. I would rather have withdrawn from the contest than attempted to rouse communal feeling or allowed others to do it for me.

Lastly, I do not understand the charge of "Kumbakonam methods employed by Kumaramangalam." The language is unintelligible to me and I am not aware of anybody from Kumbakonam helping me in the election. I can conscientiously say my methods in the electioneering were perfectly honest and straightforward.

In conclusion, I would like to say that, under present conditions in India, it is hard enough for women to have an adequate place in the public life of our country. It will be harder still, almost impossible, if a woman is attacked merely because she is the wife or the relation of a member of a particular party. It seems to me that it is a highly unfair method of defeating a woman opponent to use such relationship to prejudice her chances. I am of opinion that, when a woman participates in public life, she must be prepared to face criticism of her views and her attitude on matters of public interest. I could therefore understand if my correspondent opposed my candidature because "I served on the Round Table Conference" or "championed the women's cause at that Conference." I am aware that co-operation with the Round Table Conference has not been favoured by several people in India, and also that the women's cause has still many die-hard opponents in our country, and it will be no surprise to me if members of the Justice Party are among them. Opposition to a woman on both or one of these grounds I can appreciate, but I do feel that it is wrong to oppose a woman's claims for opportunities to serve the public merely because of her relationship to a political leader, which is purely a private and personal affair.

Public life in our Province has unfortunately too many blots already. Let us not add to them by resorting to cowardly and unfair attacks on women who are endeavouring to make their contribution to the service of their country.

GREETINGS TO "SUNDAY OBSERVER"

(BY REALIST)

Realist as I am, I crave the indulgence of your enlightened readers to allow me to recall to their minds the principles underlying the journalistic organism during the last centuries in the West by way of bringing home to them the kind of atmosphere that has been recently pervading the domain of journalism particularly in Madras. It is true that the journals of the early classic and romantic ages in England were merely depicting the spirit of the age, to indicate the things as they were and the men as they lived with the definite view of bringing out the reality of events as they might happen from time to time. It is also true that the journals were accurately and in the fairest manner describing the tendencies of these ages to enable the readers to gauge the social, moral and political regeneration of the populace.

It is for our readers to apply their searching criticism and find out how far the journals of the present day particularly in our own province are keeping up the standard considerably with the tendency of the age. But apart from the other dailies which are inundating the field of journalism in Madras, my attention was drawn to "*The Sunday Observer*" published for the first time, only last week, which I found to my surprise to be exactly the type of a journal that is imminently needed to purge the country of the obnoxious germs which have recently crept into the sanctum sanctorum of the portals of Indian Journalism and I was pleased with the policy of the paper which has been made unambiguosly clear based on absolute regard for truth. Our readers might remember that to "Dryden belongs the credit of having given modernity to English Prose" and I may aptly add that to "The Sunday Observer" belongs the unique credit of having given reality to modern journalism, and it will be equally appropriate to observe that to "*The Sunday Chronicle*" belongs the notoriety of having germinated vulgarism in the field of journalism. I am not in close contact with any of the heads that are holding the last weekly but still I infer from the graces of language running through its views that those heads are really of a tremendously vituperative magnitude.

We learn for the first time in the history of journalism the existence of ever so many un English expressions as "bunglings" and "Bobbilism" as though by adding "ings" & "isms" to verbs and phraces the white hairs of dilapidated journalism could be compensated. It is, I think, as absurd to speak of "bunglings" & "Bobbilism" as to speak of "speakings" & "Chingleputism." Whatever be the bungling or the vulgarism of one weekly it is really incumbent on some other weekly to render a normal obligation by way of making the atmosphere of journalism sanitary for the benefit of the reading public and ultimately the country. I therefore wish that "*The Sunday Observer*" will serve as a monumental purifier in the field of the Sunday Journalism in Madras.

Doctor T. Narayanaswami Mudaliar, Jeypore, Vizag, writes on 24-2-1933 as follows:—

"I acknowledge the receipt of your valuable paper "*Sunday Observer*" with many thanks. I wish the paper should prosper and gain popularity.

The Barber who Became a Benefactor

Life and work of Arkwright

GREATEST CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY OF THE 18TH CENTURY

One night well over a hundred and fifty years ago two old women stood outside the secluded parlour of the Preston Free Grammar School, listening intently to a strange humming noise that came from within. It was not long before they were joined by several others, who were equally mystified and not a little alarmed by the peculiar sounds.

As was known, the schoolmaster had let the room to two men, who had taken into it a considerable amount of baggage the shape of which had puzzled the local people not a little.

Belief in witchcraft still pervaded the land, and because the old women had not understood the nature of the strangers' baggage they were not slow to assume that it was responsible for the humming noise they heard, and which they attributed to the practice of sorcery.

Several people tried to peer into the room, but the occupants had contrived to carry on their work secretly, and blinds and shutters were drawn. Moreover, the building was fronted by gooseberry bushes, so that the efforts of the inquisitive were rendered still more difficult.

The story soon spread that the two men spent their time in the room dancing a reel to the tune of the devil's bagpipes, and since the mysterious strangers were poorly dressed, this fact added to the suspicions of neighbours.

APPRENTICED AS LATHER BOY

After a while the attitude of the people became so threatening that the men, whose names were Richard Ark-wright and Kay, decided to move and take their mysterious machine with them.

Little did the people who wanted to burn the house, as one of evil repute know that here was the cradle of the great cotton industry as we know it to-day, and that the strange noises came from a machine which was destined to revolutionise the industry, bring untold wealth to Lancashire, work and livelihood to millions, and greater comfort to mankind generally.

The machine was the invention of Arkwright, whose genius was seconded by the workmanship of Kay.

Arkwright was the thirteenth in a large family, and he had been apprenticed as a lather-boy to a barber in the town, afterwards setting up in business, on his own account.

He had moved to Bolton, where he had applied his inventive genius to the production of a hair dye which would not fade. He stained wigs and perukes, which in those days of fanciful adornment fetched from one to three guineas each.

His place of business was a basement and with a flair for publicity, he displayed outside his shop a board which read; "Come to the subterranean barber; a clean shave for a penny" This angered his rivals, who reduced their prices to a penny, only to discover that Arkwright cut his again to a halfpenny.

Arkwright was in the habit of taking an assistant round the hiring fairs, where there were always plenty of girls willing to dispose of their hair, for which young Arkwright paid well, as he was able to make this strange raw material into the wigs from the sale of which he obtained a lucrative profit.

EXPERIMENTS IN A GARRET

His travels about the county brought him into touch with many people interested in the cotton trade, and his brain, always quick to seize an opportunity, realised the necessity for machinery to supplement the handlooms which were in operation at the time.

This set him thinking.

Kay, who was a clockmaker and considered to be clever at his trade, was another man who realised the necessity of machinery to supplant the hand looms and with a Thomas Highs, a reed-maker of Leigh, he decided to carry out some experiments.

The chosen place for these experiments was a garret in Highs' house, and in order that their nature should not become known, the door of the garret whenever they were together was kept locked.

Their work continued for months but evidently with unsatisfactory progress, until one Sunday afternoon their patience gave out and a curious machine, the object of their months of toil, was flung out of the garret window into the yard below. After that, Kay returned to Warrington and his clock-making and it was there that he met Ark-wright.

Kay was induced to make further experiments and it was eventually the combination of Ark-wright's inventive genius, imagination and native shrewdness, and Kay's workmanship on the other hand, which finally brought forth the machine which had so alarmed the good people gathered outside the parlour of Preston Free Grammar School.

This machine was the spinning frame an invention of a higher order than the spinning jenny, and it implied a new principle—that of spinning by rollers.

Ark-wright's frame has remained substantially the same to this day though of course, there have been many minor improvements.

At the time of the Preston experiments, riots had broken out in many parts of Lancashire against the introduction of machinery, a fact which determined Ark-wright to move to Nottingham, where the stocking trade was in need of enormous quantities of yarn.

Meanwhile, he had given up his barber's business and had spent all his money in perfecting his spinning frame. He had also been financed by a man named John Smalley a liquor merchant and house painter but after the Nottingham venture had failed to show the profits anticipated Smalley became discouraged and left Ark-wright to his own devices. Kay however, remained loyal.

HOSTILITY FROM WORKERS

Meanwhile, Ark-wright had found new friends with money, and he entered into partnership with Samuel Need, a prosperous business man of Nottingman and an inventor and nose manufacturer of Dorby named Strutt.

This partnership, although dissolved years later, really put Ark-wright on his feet and in the way of the full development of his schemes.

His first mill at Nottingham was burned down. He then started one at Cromford on the banks of the Derwent where the necessary water power was available, the use of steam power not then being understood.

Ark-wright had to contend with much hostility both from the populace, who objected to his machines supplanting the hand-looms and ruining their cottage industries, and from fellow-manufacturers, who stole his ideas, copied his machines and failed to pay the licence fees.

But the working classes were the people who gave him the most worry. Many of them were difficult to teach, and others sabotaged his machinery.

It was at Bickacre that largely attended meetings were held and violent speeches delivered against the introduction of the spinning frame.

A storming party was formed and approached the factory along a quiet lane. Its progress was barred however, by 50 armed men employed by Ark-wright, who poured a volley into the ranks of the would-be attackers. There was no organised police force in those days, and it was necessary for Arkwright to employ small private garrisons at his mills.

BURNED DOWN HIS MILL

The repulse of the Bickacre mob with three killed and eight wounded only delayed the ruin which they had premeditated.

Next day 8,000 of them started another attack, and the 50 men who defended the mill were helpless to stem the assault. The place was fired and with its valuable contents burned to the ground, the damage being estimated at £10,000.

Similar scenes were enacted in other parts of the country.

But Ark-wright remained undaunted by these attacks, and he made a typically defiant gesture when he had built a large new mill in Shude Hill, Manchester.

As he grew older and his wealth increased he was much given to boasting—especially in the presence of members of the nobility. The man who had been born into a poor Preston family, and who had threatened to be "one too many for the porridge dish," was now flaunting his wealth and saying he could pay off the National Debt if he wished.

He was knighted, and when he became High Sheriff of Derbyshire his procession to the Assize Court was the most magnificent that had been seen in the county.

It was due to his personal industry and meticulous attention to business, as well as to his inventive genius, that he owed his great success in life.

Ark-wright built a magnificent mansion, which he called Willersely Castle, which was still uncompleted when he died in 1792. Enough of it was partitioned off and furnished, however, to enable him to live there in great luxury.

Then, on the morning of August 3, a small flag flying over the castle at half mast told the people of Cromford that the man who had done so much to establish a great industry was dead.

This picture of the man of wealth and the greatest captain of industry the eighteenth century produced, makes striking comparison with that of the same man less than forty years earlier.

He was then a struggling barber who had been married barely a year when his young wife died, leaving him with a baby boy only a few weeks old.

He was found by a relative holding the infant on one knee and, with his arm resting on the other, his face buried in the clothes of the death-bed, mourning his loss.

Yet another picture is left us of the baby Richard, grown to manhood the head of the gigantic business left him by his father, and which he so considerably extended.

The younger Richard married and became, the father of a family of ten children.

One Christmas morning, coming down to breakfast, he was greeted by his children, who had just found in their table napkins each a Bank of England note for £10,000.

Truly, the rise to wealth, power and fame of the poor barber of Bolton is as romantic as any in English history.

Jimmy (very excited): "Mummy, I've just seen the present David's mummy has brought him—a new baby."

Mother (who has heard rumours of twins): "How lovely! Just one dear?"

"Yes, there was only one. I've just seen it lying in the pram, but it's an extra special sort. It's got a head at each end."

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APPLY TO MANAGER

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ORIGIN OF MEMORABLE SAYINGS

SOME HOARY CLAIMS EXPOSED

Mr. W. A. Hurst in a letter to "The Spectator" marshalls a devastating array of memorable sayings, which were in fact not uttered at all by those who have been credited with these brilliant wits:—

The usual misquotation of Bishop Butler in a daily paper reminds me of the innumerable pithy sayings which were never said. Butler is always quoted as saying: "Things are what they are, and consequences will be what they will be." This is a mere piece of fatalism, quite devoid of originality or helpfulness. What the Bishop said was: "Things and actions are what they are, and the consequences of them will be what they will be; why then should we desire to be deceived?" He was pointing out the futility of men who, like Balaam, do wrong and hope to escape the consequences of their actions.

The above is a mere misquotation, but a more interesting form of inaccuracy is the groundless attribution of a phrase to some distinguished character. The favourite situation or utterance with our purveyors of news is "dramatic," and usually it is difficult to discover any analogy with tragedy, comedy, or even farce in the "dramatic" scenes which they hastily report. But everyone feels that a striking situation deserves appropriate letterpress, and so to many of them a pungent saying is appended, which alas! is almost always fictitious.

Some of these legendary speeches serve to show with how little research our historians manufacture their histories. There is a reputed letter of Queen Elizabeth to Coxe, Bishop of Ely, which is quoted in Green's "Short History" and accepted without question by Froude. The acquisitive Queen was trying to induce the Bishop to give up some valuable London property belonging to the See—hence Ely Place—and she was successful. She is said to have reminded him that "I who made you what you are, can unmake you; and if you do not forthwith fulfil your engagement, by—I will unfrock you." The earliest authority for this is the Annual Register of 1761, and the Editor states that it is a letter from the Queen to the Bishop of Ely (Heaton) and taken from the Register of Ely.

It never occurred either to Green or Froude to examine the Ely Register, but the fact that the document is undated, that it is signed merely Elizabeth, that the verb unfrock was not then current, and that the name is wrong—Heaton is unknown to history—might have roused suspicions in the most confiding chroniclers. Further, Elizabeth by such a letter would have stultified her whole ecclesiastical policy, seeing that one serious trouble was that the adversary declared that her Bishops were not properly consecrated, but "made" by her instead of receiving consecration by a properly qualified prelate. The letter is a palpable forgery.

The saying, L'Etat c'est moi, was almost certainly never uttered by Louis XIV. He did indeed make a speech to the parliament in 1655 and in it occur the words Mon Etat, but that seems to be the only ground upon which the legend, as Lavisse rightly calls it, is built. Nothing is more unlikely than that the boy King, barely sixteen years of age, who was then and for years afterwards completely dominated by Mazarin, should have adopted such a haughty tone.

Many historians and all journalists attribute to Walpole the saying, "Every man has his price". Anyone but a historian would have suspected an error in the fathering upon so shrewd a man as Walpole such a palpable falsehood. The true version is accessible to everyone. Hervey tells us that in 1783 he wrote to George II that "as to the revolters, he knew the reasons and the price of every one of them." But it would be too much to expect historians to consult contemporary authorities. The foundation of this astonishing axiom is a confused recollection of Coxe who says: "Flowery oratory he despised; he ascribed to the interested views of themselves or their relations, the declarations of pretended patriots, of whom he said, 'All these men have their price.'" Lord Morley, in his short life of Walpole, states the matter correctly.

A Solitary Exception

It is a real pleasure to turn to sayings that really were delivered according to the textbooks. Almost our solitary instance is afforded by the heroic death of General Wolfe. The picturesque Green gives substantially the same account as innumerable others. The striking features are his comment upon Gray's "Elegy" and the shout, They run. Both episodes are well authenticated. Thackeray, indeed, in his anxiety to strip "the mask and cothurnus" from the Muse of History, makes Harry the Virginian say that he learned "from the testimony of a brother aid-de-camp who was by his side, that the General never spoke at all after receiving his death-wound, so that the phrase which has been put into the mouth of the dying hero may be considered no more authentic than an oration of Livy or Thucydides."

Three or four eye-witnesses testify to his dying words and the remark on Gray's "Elegy" is equally authentic. It was not, of course, made during the night attack, when strict silence was essential, but a Scot named Robinson—afterwards a professor in his native land—who served as a midshipman in the expedition heard Wolfe say that he would rather be the author of that poem than take Quebec. He said it the night before the battle while making the rounds.

Louis XV is a much misrepresented monarch and the fixing upon him of the saying, "Apres moi (or nous) le Deluge", is one instance. We may always suspect an anecdote which is told of two or more persons, and Madame de Pompadour is also said to have used the expression. In each case the evidence is most flimsy. More probable but impossible to verify is Voltaire's comment upon Habakkuk, the Prophet, as capable de tout.

A most malignant falsehood is that laid upon Foulon, who was alleged to have said: "Si cette canaille n'a pas de pain elle mangera du foin." It is strange, if such were his sentiments, that he should have expended 60,000 francs in providing work for the unemployed. The scoundrel Mirabeau paid several hundred thousand francs—not his own money—to incite the mob against Foulon, and thus effected his brutal murder. The Court and Foulon and all well disposed men in authority were cordially hated by the Orleanists and Revolutionists because they took measures against grain-hoarders. These "patriots" profited by corners in food and also desired scarcity as tending to make the people discontented and revolutionary. They, therefore, spread reports that Foulon, and his friends were doing the very thing of which they themselves were guilty. It is not surprising that they should have taken in the rabble but that they should have taken in and continue to take in our historians, is much stranger.

The Duke of Wellington is credited with a speech that has become a household word: "Up Guards, and at them!" Indeed, on the strength of it, a racehorse was named "Up Guards." It is certain that the Duke never said it, but what he did say is harder to discover. He himself thinks that he may have said, "Stand up Guards". The only remark which can be certainly accredited to him at the crisis is, "That's right Colborne; go on." This commander of the gallant Fifty-Second was the first to take advantage of the recoil of the French Guard. Thomas Hardy gives an accurate version:

"Colborne (shouting): Forward; Right shoulders forward, Fifty-Second!"

Wellington: Ha Colborne—you say well! Go on; go on! You'll do it now!"

Hardy is equally accurate in his treatment of another Waterloo mot almost equally famous. The intrepid Cambronne was reported to have said, "La Garde mort et, ne se rend pas". The single word which he uttered when offered quarter, is correctly given by Hardy.

To conclude with another ludicrous misattribution it used to be stated that Pitt's last words were "My country! How I leave my country!" There is some reason to believe that his last coherent remark was "I think that I could eat one of Bellamy's veal pies." In fact (except on the stage), dying men seldom make speeches. Their death is usually preceded by a stupor of considerable duration.

We may gather from the history of the various mots that a suitable impromptu comes at the right moment and has to be invented subsequently.

HANDS OFF THE I.C.S.

SERVICE DEMANDS

The following document, purporting to be a copy of the representation of the Indian Civil Service Central Association to be placed before the Joint Select Committee of the Houses of Parliament on the Government of India Bill published by "Searchlight"

1. GENERAL CONTROL

(a) It should be laid down in the new Government of India Act that the Secretary of State in Council shall continue his existing control over all members of the Service appointed by him and may not delegate these powers to any other authority. In the event of the abolition of the India Council the Association should be given an opportunity of making recommendations as to the authority that should take its place in this matter.

(b) There should be provision having the force of law that—

(i) all orders regarding the posting, emoluments and discipline of officers of the Indian Civil Service should be personally accepted by the Governor; and that,

(ii) there should be in every province a senior post corresponding to that of Chief Secretary to be held by an officer of the Indian Civil Service through whom all proposals relating to such orders should be submitted to the Governor.

II. EXISTING AND ACCRUING RIGHTS

(a) 'Prospects.'—There should be a statutory guarantee that officers in service at the inception of the new constitution should have a right to rise, subject to efficiency through the grades of the ordinary time scale, and that if higher posts are abolished the members of the Service should be compensated, for example, by the conversion of a sufficient number of posts in the time scale into a selection grade or grades with pay rising to not less than Rs. 3,000.

III. PROPORTIONATE PENSIONS

(a) The right to retire prematurely on proportionate pension should be allowed to all members in the Service at the time of inauguration of the new Government of India Act. They should not be required to make any statement regarding their reasons for premature retirement. As conditions may change with new Governments under the party system, it is necessary that the right should continue indefinitely.

(b) In the calculation of proportionate pensions, any period of military service should be taken into account as it is already for seniority and pay, and in every case the retiring member of the Service should be allowed to avail himself of all leave earned (up to the present maximum of 2½ years).

IV. COMPENSATION FOR COMPULSORY RETIREMENT

Officers who are retired compulsory should, in addition to proportionate pensions, be given compensation for loss of career, as was done in the case of officers of the Egyptian Service. This compensation should be statutory and based on actuarial computation, or in the alternative should be on the model and scale of the Egyptian gratuities. If the compensation is based on actuarial computation, the Service Association should be given an opportunity of making any representation before the scale of compensation is finally settled.

Officers should have the right to apply to the Secretary of State to be compulsorily retired and to receive the pension and compensation due to officers so retired.

(Note:—The necessity for asking for this right is that though an officer may not be retired compulsorily, conditions may be made so difficult for him that he may have no choice but to leave the Service.)

(b) 'Pay and Allowances.'—There should be a statutory guarantee that pay and allowances sanctioned by the Secretary of State should be beyond the power of interference by any Government in India.

(c) 'Pensions'—It should be provided by British Statute—

(i) that pensions shall be paid at the present rates and that all past and future contributions to family pensions shall be funded in England;

(ii) that pensions paid in England shall be exempt from Indian income tax;

(iii) that beneficiaries shall have a right of suit against the Secretary of State for the payment of these pensions; and

(iv) that the Secretary of State shall provide himself with funds against which any decree in favour of a beneficiary could be executed.

CAROL FACES A CRISIS

MARTIAL LAW PROCLAIMED IN RUMANIA

Bucharest (By Mail)

King Carol of Rumania faces one of the greatest crisis of his life; and the whole future of his country is in the melting-pot.

Following labour demonstrations in many districts, martial law has been proclaimed; and police and military have been massed at industrial centres to prevent further outbreaks.

Sitting into the early hours of this morning, the Government passed a decree declaring a state of emergency, and to-day King Carol affixed his signature.

This action follows a series of alarming disturbances for which the Communists are blamed.

It is alleged that they have obtained a hold on the labour organisations and mean to use them as a weapon to smash the monarchy.

King Carol's throne is menaced by a growing group of hotheads who want to introduce a Red Republic.

The Bill authorising a state of martial law affects Bucharest and the important oil well districts.

Railways, workshops and oil wells are being closely guarded.

The disturbances which have already taken place are connected with a wage dispute in the oilfields, and a claim for higher wages by rail workers.

The Bill provides that should there be an election, martial law will be suspended during that period.

Dr. Vaida Voevod, the Prime Minister, states that the Bill is purely a preventive measure.

Its aim, he claims, is to safeguard the rights for which the National Peasant Party have fought during the past ten years, and which any movement towards anarchy might overthrow.

Any abuse of power, he adds, would be precluded.

A Mrs. Smith (as good a name as any) engaged a new housemaid, and was annoyed to find that the girl persisted in addressing her as "Mrs. Smith."

She remonstrated, and suggested that the girl should address her in the same way as the other maids did.

"Well," said the girl, thoughtfully, "I can't call you mam or mum; I always call mother that. But I don't mind calling you auntie if you like."

INDIA'S FUTURE CONSTITUTION

IMPLICATIONS OF COMMERCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Calcutta, Feb. 18.

Mr. G. L. Metha delivered a speech on "Commercial Discrimination" at the St. Paul's College Economic Society yesterday evening, Dr. Bridge presiding.

Mr. Metha described the subject matter of his lecture as one of the major issues before the three Round Table Conferences as shown by the fact that it was one of the subjects in which special powers are to be given to the Governor-General on whom special responsibility will rest for the purpose. In tracing the origin and history of this question from the time of the Simon Commission till now, he pointed out that the clause about equality of trading rights as evolved at the first Round Table Conference was condemned all over India by Indian commercial bodies; by various economists and by politicians of different schools. The lecturer submitted that the phrase "commercial discrimination" was not strictly accurate and argued that it was a question not so much of discrimination as of equalisation. As Prof. H. J. Laski had observed "freedom of contract begins only where equality of bargaining power begins. While extraordinary, abnormal and absolute powers with which the Governor General or the Governors are to be invested are euphemistically described as "safeguards" and "special responsibilities," the claim for a perpetuation of the privileges of the British Commercial community is dignified by the name of "equality of trading rights" and the demand of Indians for equalisation of economic opportunities and conditions is damned as "commercial discrimination." Referring to the form and nomenclature of his safeguard, he observed that the previous claim for "equality of trading rights" of the first Round Table Conference had now emerged as a demand for prohibition of discrimination and the method of securing it is not through a treaty or a convention but by a statutory provision in the constitution itself which was a far greater handicap.

The discussion on this Subject at the three sessions of the Round Table Conference, Mr. Metha stated, had drifted into side issues and centre round particular measures to be taken for safe-guarding Indian industries without compromising the central principle which had been unwarily accepted by the Indian Delegates. It is of little avail to evolve exceptions to a principle which itself requires careful scrutiny and is open to serious objection. It is not a mere question of special adjustments or treatment for specific cases according to peculiar circumstances but an issue fundamental to the political sovereignity and economic power of the future Government in India. No formulas, however ingeniously devised can gloss over plain facts.

MOST OBJECTIONABLE FORMULA

Mr. Metha was of opinion that the formula as embodied in the Report of the Committee on Commercial Safeguards is even more objectionable than Clause 14 of the Report of the minorities sub-committee of the first Round Table Conference. For instance, it provides protection not only to British traders but to all subjects of the Crown, it ensures protection not only in respect of trading rights but also with regard to taxation, holding of property, profession etc. and it provides not only for legislative discrimination but for administrative discrimination as well, a point on which the group led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru differed from the Report. It is contended by the defenders of the formula that the discrimination which it prohibits is only on grounds of race but that discrimination on other grounds is permissible. It is significant, however, that the expression "discrimination on grounds of race" has nowhere been defined and while it meant one thing to the Indian Delegates the British Delegates placed another and an altogether wider interpretation upon it, Lord Reading, for example, consistently and strongly objected to discrimination on any ground whatsoever.

Mr. Metha argued that such differentiation as was involved in a national economic policy was not discrimination against any race as such but a distinction between nationals and non-nationals. If safeguarding of Indian economic interests is to be called discrimination, Indianisation and Swaraj are discrimination in the political sphere. He pointed out some recent instances of economic policy and measures followed not only in Turkey and Persia but within the British Commonwealth by the Irish Free State which distinguished between nationals and non-nationals. Such a right was an integral part of political self-government and fiscal autonomy.

ECONOMIC OBJECTIONS TO SAFEGUARDS

Dealing with the economic objections to the safeguard, Mr. Metha emphasised that the formula covered not only British firms carrying on business in India but also doing business with India. He quoted the opinion of Pandit Malaviya, Mr. Sastri and Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar to show that the inclusion not only of sojourners but of "exporters of capital" in the category of citizens was inequitable in principle and detrimental to Indian interests in practice. As regards the question of reciprocity, the lecturer said that the inferiority of Indian rests not on legal principles but on economic facts. The vital issue in economic relation ship between England and India is not abstract rights but practical powers. Even in regard to the grant of subsidies and bounties, the Government would not be free to lay down conditions and stipulations to safeguard Indian interests as hitherto because existing industries were to be excluded and because the authority of the legislature was not beyond the recommendations of the External Capital Committee. In such a background, a bounty-fed non-Indian industry could carry on its operations under the fiscal protection of the Government of India without any benefit to the country and even while refusing admission to Indians to be trained in its technical branches as was shown in the debate on the Bamboo Paper Industry Protection Bill in the Assembly last year. Moreover, the legislature would be deprived of the power to devise new stipulations or conditions for safeguarding Indian interests. To use the term "safeguard" for such a shackle was absured. Of what constitutes discrimination, an authority not responsible to the people of India but to Parliament of England will be the final judge. The whole purpose and value of protection were being nullified by this so-called safeguard since the use of protection was national apprenticeship. It was not a question of the utility of foreign capital but of the right of regulating the flow of foreign capital and laying down the conditions on which it should operate in the country.

THE POLITICAL OBJECTIONS

Explaining the political objections to such a safeguard, Mr. Mehta stated that the grant of self.government carried with it the authority to decide on vital economic issues. An injunction in perpetuity restraining the legislature from trying to regulate not only existing and accruing rights but also "the expectations in investments by business connections," as Mr. Rangaswamy Iyengar aptly described it was unheard-of and unparalleled in any constitution of the world. It had not been accepted or recognised by any Colony even before the attainment of Dominion Status and was never made a condition precedent to the grant of Dominion Status. The constitutional basis on which the demand was made was still undefined as it is uncertain whether it is as a minority committee or as British citizens that this safeguard is demanded. Criticising the claim based on British citizenship, the lecturer pointed out that a British citizen is not entitled by virtue of nationality to any social or political rights in all the Dominions and quoted the authoritative opinion of British Courts that "from the standpoint of the country of domicile, it is undesirable and even perilous to have permanently established within its territory large numbers of persons who do not owe that country permanent allegiance." The proposed safeguard withdrew from the Government even the powers they have at present and the fundamental question is not the need of using the power but the existence of the power itself as Lord Reading had clearly perceived. Every such restriction on this right of the national legislature, whether you describe it as safeguard or special responsibility, guarantee or special powers, is a limitation on full national states, an infringement of political responsibility and a violation of legislative sovereignty.

"Is your father kind to animals, Tommy?"

"Yes, miss:'e said'e'd like to kill the man who scratches horses."

PROFESSOR GUILTY OF ESPIONAGE

TRIAL REVEALS LOVE AFFAIR WITH SECRETARY

Rome, (By Mail)

Sentence of fifteen years' imprisonment was asked by the crown at the trial here of professor Charles Eydoux of the Paris polytechnic, who is accused of espionage.

In addition, prosecuting counsel asked that Mlle. Georgette Bonnefond, the professor's secretary, who admitted that she had been also his mistress for twelve years, should be sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

The professor, however, was sentenced to five years and his secretary to three years and four months. As they had already been in prison five months awaiting trial, the Professor, owing to a general amnesty of three years, will have only a year and seven months to serve, while Mlle. Bonnefond was released.

The trial was heard before a military tribunal presided over by Lieut.-General Antonino Tringalli.Casanuova.

Professor Eydoux is fifty-seven years of age, and he and Mlle. Bonnefond, who were arrested on September 4 near Tarvis, on the Austro-Italo frontier, are accused of having "conspired together within the meaning of Article 257 of the penal code to procure for the purpose of military espionage information which in the interest of the security of the State should remain secret."

Their arrest was kept secret for over four months.

Professor Eydoux, who is an engineer, and who has specialised in road and bridge construction, confessed to the charge of espionage, and gave evidence that he performed the investigation for a high officer of the French Army whose name he refused to divulge.

He was entrusted with reconnoitring the Yugoslav-Italo situation, and added that he had made several trips to Italy for that purpose.

He was asked by the Court if it were true that according to the French Army list he held rank as a Major-General. Professor Eydoux, with bowed head, replied "Yes." Mlle. Bonnefond, who confessed that she had had a child by the professor, said she was formerly secretary at the St. Cyr Military Academy (France's Sandhurst).

CONSTABLE: "This is the third time I've caught you."

Jovial Motorist: "Ha! And now I suppose you think I'm yours for keeps?"

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MADRAS, SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1933

NO. 3

"A MEAN AND MALICIOUS LIE"

MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU'S REPLY TO "CHRONICLE"

MISCHIEVOUS MISREPRESENTATIONS NAILED TO THE COUNTER

DETESTABLE PASTIME OF VILIFICATION DEPRECATED

Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu sends us for publication the following letter which he has addressed to the "Sunday Chronicle":

My attention was drawn to a scurrilous personal attack on me by an anonymous correspondent in your issue of the 19th February 1933. I thought that such an anonymous communication should and would be treated with contempt by all right-minded readers of your paper and considered it unnecessary to take any notice of it. But, I had to change my attitude, as the first attack was followed in quick succession by another virulent attack in your next issue of the 26th February 1933, by the same anonymous correspondent, affirming his previous allegations, though there were no fresh instances of "profiteering" to urge. Moreover, special modes of publication and circulation of the two issues were adopted, such as featuring in bold and attractive headlines the caption "Profiteering in Co-operative Movement" and advertising it in wall-posters, and circulation of free copies to persons interested in the Co-operative Movement in the City and the mofussil, though they are not subscribers to the journal. So, it looked to me as if a privileged anonymous correspondent has embarked on a regular plan of publishing contributions directed against me, in your columns. I am, therefore, constrained to send this reply to put your readers on their guard against such campaign. It is a matter of painful surprise to me that your columns should have been so freely used for such a purpose.

The main theme of your correspondent is that I "misused the (co-operative) movement for profiteering purposes." I call it a mean and malicious lie. A person who indulges in such detestable past-time of defaming reputations and injuring interests of public institutions under the cloak of anonymity by unfair comments based on untrue allegations is, in my opinion, a great danger to honest public life and work. Your correspondent has beaten all record in the art of concentration of venom and falsehood in attacking an enemy through a newspaper article. I am, however, more concerned with his allegations than with him. I shall therefore answer each one of his main allegations seriatum by simple and indisputable facts. I have no doubt that your readers will then realise that your correspondent is not "One in the Know" as he calls himself, but is "One in dark malice".

1. It is said that I am sanctioned a personal allowance by the Provincial Co-operative Bank. It is not true. No personal allowance was sanctioned to me at any time by the Bank. I see a sly attempt on the part of the writer to insert, at the tail end of a fresh mass of vindictive abuse of me in another article in the issue of the 26th February, 1933, a correction of "allowance" into "assistant". If it is an assistant, where is the question of "profiteering" to prop up which accusation, the allegation about allowance was originally made? In the context, "allowance" could not have been a mistake for "assistant".

FALSE ALLEGATIONS

2. It is said that the bye-laws of the South India Co-operative Insurance Society are so framed that the President and Secretary may draw honorarium and travelling allowance of a few thousands of rupees a year. It is false. There are no such pro-

(Continued on page 5)

"ADI'S MUSIC BOOKS"

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